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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD:

Ex-firefighter gets 30 years in jail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Manglona says Benavente has 'ice' and sex addictions

Former firefighter Richard Sullivan Benavente was slapped yesterday in federal court with the maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment for sexual exploitation of a child.

"Despite your denial, you are a pedophile," U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona told the 45-year-old Benavente.

Benavente

Manglona said she is going to proceed with what justice requires, which is to remove Benavente from the community.

The judge said the 30-year sentence will set an example or serve as a wake-up call to adults who are currently preying on minors.

"You will bear the cross," Manglona told the former firefighter.

Manglona said the defendant has drug addiction, but also admitted to have sex addiction.

The judge said Benavente claimed

See EX-FIREFIGHTER on Page 4

Fallen US WWII hero's Army dog tag found on Saipan

CHRIS CAROLA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, New York (AP)—Dorothy Hollingsworth was just 7 when her brother Tom left the family farm in Indiana to join the Army a few months before the United States entered World War II. She never saw him again.

Now, more than 70 years after Pfc. Thomas E. Davis was killed in one of the war's last major battles, a tangible reminder of her beloved sibling has been found on the Pacific island of Saipan—one of his Army dog tags.

"He was a great guy," said Hollingsworth, 82, who lives outside Dayton, Ohio, noting that some of her earliest memories are of the tall, thin sibling 17 years her senior who always sat next to her at the dinner table. "He was always laughing and singing and whistling."

Cultural historian Genevieve Cabrera told The Associated Press in an email that she found the discolored metal tag sticking out of the

See FALLEN on Page 4

AP

This Feb. 13, 2016 photo provided by Genevieve Cabrera shows World War II Pfc. Thomas E. Davis' Army dog tag that was found in a farm field in Saipan in early 2014.

'Utilities surcharge for govt, commercial accounts unfair'

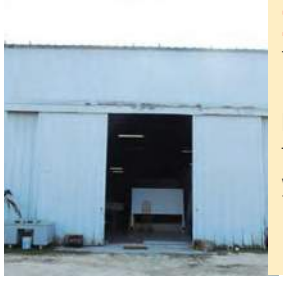
By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some members of the business community believe that it is unfair for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to allow only the commercial and government accounts to bear the brunt of providing additional revenue for the utilities company's non-grant capital improvement projects should it be approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Last week, majority of the CUC board of directors approved for a sur-

See UTILITIES on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL
The Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base was burglarized again and several tools were discovered stolen yesterday morning.
» PAGE 5

LOCAL
Four of the NMI's junior high students were hailed as "superiors" after performing and competing in the Junior International Thespian Society tilt in Denison, Texas last week.
» PAGE 14

OVERDRIVE
It's been 34 years since the Nissan Sentra first appeared in the U.S. market, and Nissan has sold more than 4 million of them.
» PAGE 19

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NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
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NOTICE OF MEETING
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016
Time: 1:00p.m
Place: BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order (1:00p.m – 1:20p.m)
a. Roll Call
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. **(1:20p.m – 1:40p.m)**

III. New Business (1:40p.m- 2:40p.m)
a. NMC Appropriations Budget Request
b. Presidential Search Committee Budget

IV. Executive Session (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
a. Legal Matters
b. Personnel Matters

V. Adjournment (3:30p.m)

/s/ Frank M. Rabauliman Date: February 22, 2016
BOR Chairperson

Local

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Archeologists who did a study on Best Sunshine International's site in Garapan will be presenting to the public today the preliminary findings on their study. In the photo are, from left, archeologist Vanessa Cabrera, BSI legal counsel Viola Alepuyo, and Scientific Consultant Services principal investigator Michael Dega.

BSI to hold public hearing on archeological finds today

»Over 400 remains found

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Archeologists who dug and made studies of the remains and artifacts found at the Garapan site of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. will be presenting to the public today a preliminary report on their findings on what they tout as "the largest data recovery project ever on Saipan."

In a press conference, Scientific Consultant Services principal investigator Michael Dega reported that their 270-page preliminary draft was finished a month ago and was submitted to the Historic Preservation Office after about four months of digging and data recovery. Twelve archeologists, two of which are osteologists, worked on the site.

The site, which was called Anaguan, is an ancient village and burial site as early as 1300 A.D., and is said to be where the Spanish-Chamoru War happened in the 1660s.

According to the archeologists, the site had two main layers: a cultural layer where people used to live and a burial layer. No pre-latte period artifacts were found, and no evidence of Spanish settlement was also found.

Sling stones, fish hooks, jewelry, pottery, bone spears, stone and shell tools, basalt axes, and *lusongs* (mortar and pestle) are just some of the materials they found at the cultural layer.

Dega said the remains they found total to 416 MNIs or minimum numbers of individuals.

While most of the recovered artifacts found are on island and stored in a climate-controlled facility in Lower Base, Dega said charcoal samples were sent to Florida for carbon-dating, pottery samples were also sent off-island and, about 15 to 18 "small bags" of bones were sent to Idaho for DNA testing. These bones are still off island and being studied.

Testing made to the bones show that the population was healthy. As early as then, traces of beetle nut were found on the teeth of the people.

Largest bowl, American GI

Some of the more interesting findings include an overturned 3-foot ceramic bowl, which when lifted turned out to be covering the remains of a 3-year-old child. The bowl was said to be the "largest ceramic bowl ever found intact."

It was found by Vanessa Cabrera, a homegrown archeologist from the island. Being able to unearth this finding of her own ancestors was an emotional experience for Cabrera.

"When I first found it, I saw that it was just the lady and the bowl. So I was thinking maybe she held some sort of status. But as I kept digging, I found the child," Cabrera said.

Cabrera said the first thing she said was "You are beautiful."

For her, despite some people's views that unearthing the remains are disrespectful, it was an opportunity to learn more about herself and her ancestors. She was also able to get support from friends.

"I have friends messaged me saying, who better to do that than a local," Cabrera said.

Another interesting finding the archeologist found was the remains of an American G.I. from World War II that was found to be of European decent. It was in the north central side of the site, away from the latte site.

Dega said the remains were flown out by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Hawaii to find the relatives of the fallen soldier.

BSI legal counsel Viola Alepuyo said they have several options that they will present to the public on what to do with the remains and where they will be interred but they will let the people comment and voice out their opinions.

"Ultimately, it's HPO that gets to decide," Alepuyo said.

BSI will hold a public meeting today from 6pm to 8pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center and another one on Wednesday at Chacha Oceanview Middle School.

"We couldn't have done it without Best Sunshine. They funded and they promoted and helped us do the largest data recovery project ever on Saipan. Without them this would never happened," Dega said.

TO ENSURE GOVT MEETS ITS OBLIGATIONS TO PAY THE RETIREES

Trustee directed to begin working group talks for long-term solutions

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood yesterday ordered Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C. H. Tang to begin a working group conversation with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and members of the Legislature to explore long-term solutions that will ensure that the CNMI government meets its obligations to pay pension benefits to retirees under the settlement agreement.

In a written order following Friday's hearing, Tydingco-Gatewood reemphasized that it is critical for the CNMI government to work together and to cooperate with Tang to identify stable source of funds to ensure the continued payment of pension benefits to the retirees.

The judge on Friday ordered acting governor Victor B. Hocog to form a working group with the Legislature and Settlement Fund for long-term planning.

Tydingco-Gatewood said a long-term solution for the Settlement Fund has to be addressed now.

She also ordered Tang that day, Friday, and Settlement Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan to process the 25 percent pension payments to retirees that were due last Feb. 12.

In her written order yesterday, Tydingco-Gatewood said Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and Pangelinan to continue to participate in weekly conference calls to discuss the schedule of the government's interim payments.

Tydingco-Gatewood shared Tang's concern that the government needs to make more significant and regular payments toward the minimum annual payments required under the settlement agreement.

The judge said she is aware that the Settlement Fund has had to regularly draw down on its investments to cover the 75 percent payments to the retirees.

As trustee's expert has reported, Tydingco-Gatewood said, the government's actions or inactions greatly impact the retirees in that it results in a significant loss of investment income and will hasten the depletion date of the Settlement Fund's investment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

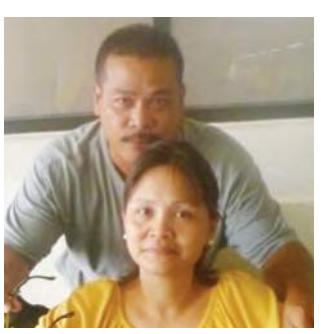
CONGRATULATIONS!

Another Lucky NMSA $1000 Winner! Congratulations to Mrs. Valencia who won $1000 instant cash at LN Store in Chalan Kanoa last Thursday while shopping with her daughter. She hit the jackpot and was super excited with her luck. Pictured is Mrs. Valencia with her daughter together with Anicia Kisa from NMSA to make the $1000 cash presentation. There are many more $1000 cash prizes to be won from the Northern Marianas Sports Association fundraising program. Good luck with your tickets!

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 6th birthday Elkee Fumiku P. Babauta. We love you and wish you more birthdays to come. God bless you! From Daddy Rick, Mommy Janet, Lola Mamita, Tito Momong, and Ninang Yolly



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 45th birthday Mom! Words cannot express how much love we have for you. You deserve nothing but the best! Love, Dad, your kids, grandkids, and rest of the family!

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Drug Court to hold second session with 4 applicants

The U.S. District Court for the NMI's Drug Offender Re-entry Program will hold this afternoon, Tuesday, its second session with four applicants.

The Drug Court Team will hold a meeting at 2pm in the second floor jury assembly room at Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

At 3pm, the Drug Offender Re-entry Program session will commence.

The session was held last Jan. 26. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over the session.

The four applicants to the program are former U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer Bob Hajime Deleon Guerrero Yamagishi, former police officer Florencio Q. Richards, Vicente Aldan Sablan, and Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa.

The Federal Drug Offender Re-entry Program is a post-incarceration cooperative effort program of the U.S. District Courts, U.S. Probation Office, Federal Public Defender, and U.S. Attorney's Office.

The program provides treatment and sanctions alternatives to address re-integration into the community for non-violent, substance abuse offenders released from federal prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FALLEN

From Page 1

soil of a farm field on Saipan in early 2014. It was embossed with Davis' name, serial number, hometown and other information.

Cabrera recently gave the tag to members of Kuentai, a Japan-based organization that has found the remains of five U.S. 27th Infantry Division soldiers on Saipan. The group notified the AP this month about the dog tag's discovery in the hope that his relatives could be found. The AP tracked down members of the soldier's family with the help of Anthony Barger, the archivist for the Putnam County Public Library.

Kuentai representatives said they'll arrange to meet the Davis family in the U.S. to hand over the tag.

While it is relatively common to find canteens, weapons and even unexploded shells from the 100,000 Americans and Japanese who fought for 25 days on the 46-square-mile (119-square-kilometer) island, dog tags remain a rare find, Cabrera said. The tags, attached to a chain worn around the neck, were the only item of military-issued gear a soldier wore daily that included potentially life-saving information such as blood type and when a tetanus shot was administered.

A year before Davis died in the battle for Okinawa in April 1945, he earned one of the nation's highest military honors after surviving the bloody fighting on Saipan.

According to wartime records kept at the New York State Military Museum, home to many of the 27th Division's documents, Davis earned the Silver Star on Saipan in June 1944 for risking his own life to rescue a wounded comrade "at a time when the American front was undergoing brutal Japanese artillery and mortar fire."

Davis went into the Army in September 1941, three months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drew the U.S. into World War II. He served in the 165th Infantry Regiment of the 27th Infantry Division, a New York National Guard unit mobilized into active service in 1940.

Davis was with the 27th when it took part in the Okinawa invasion, which began on April 1, 1945. Three weeks later, he was shot by a Japanese sniper while again helping a wounded soldier, according to what Hollingsworth says military officials told the family. Davis died April 30, two months shy of his 28th birthday. Four years later, his body was brought back for reburial in his hometown.

Davis was born and raised on his family's farm in Roachdale in Putnam County, Indiana, 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of Indianapolis. His mother died when he was a young boy, and his father remarried. Davis had six siblings: an older brother, Harold, three half brothers and two half sisters, including Hollingsworth. The brothers have died. His other half-sister, Hazel Priest, 81, lives in Victoria, Texas, and several nieces and nephews live in Texas, Ohio and Indiana.

EX-FIREFIGHTER

From Page 1

he was only a drug addict, but not a pedophile.

Manglona said the defendant, however, had engaged in sex with two minor girls.

Manglona said with his "ice" addiction and sexual exploitation of minors, it is a scary risk to get Benavente back in the community.

The judge said Benavente gave drugs and engaged in sex with minors, who were addicted to drugs.

"You were able to identify the weakness of the minors," Manglona said.

The judge said Benavente pleaded guilty which is very important.

Manglona said what the defendant did after entering a plea deal with the government was so damaging.

Manglona said Benavente has no criminal history and it is very troubling that some police reports involving the defendant have never made it through the criminal division of the Office of the Attorney General.

The judge urged the head of the Department of Public Safety to look into those reports.

Manglona said after completing the prison term, Benavente will be placed on five years of supervised release.

The defendant was ordered to jointly pay with Annette Naktsukasa Basa restitution to the two minors and Guma Esperanza in the amount of $9,102.39, and $100 special assessment fee.

Benavente's cellphone and camera that he used in committing the crime were forfeited to the U.S. government as part of the plea agreement.

Before the sentence was handed down, Benavente apologized to the court, his family, and to the victims and their families for his crime.

"I am a drug addict!" said Benavente, adding that he smoked "ice" for 15 years and that he hid it from his family and friends.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Benavente, recommended a sentence of the statutory mandatory minimum of 15 years imprisonment.

Dotts reiterated the defense's position that Benavente was a drug addict and not a pedophile.

Dotts said as one of the videos showed, the defendant was smoking "ice" while having sex.

The defense lawyer said "ice" affected Benavente's judgment so he engaged sex with two minor girls.

Dotts said a 30-year sentence is not fair and not appropriate because it's like imposing a life sentence on the defendant.

Assistant attorney general Garth Backe recommended a sentence of 24 years and four months imprisonment, which is the lowest end of the sentencing guidelines range.

Backe said as a then-fireman or trusted public servant, Benavente engaged in sex with at least two minor girls, and worse, he also gave the minors "ice."

On top of that, Backe said, Benavente even videotaped his sex with the minor girls.

Backe said Benavente also committed perjury and obstruction of justice.

Backe said at the trial of Raymond Roberto, Benavente victimized the girls again by calling them liars.

Benavente's mother cried when she testified in court yesterday begging for a lenient sentence. She said her son has a good heart, took care of his siblings, and that his two children need him.

The mother said her son is a good man but drugs changed him.

Benavente's sister also testified that he is a good man and that because of drugs, he changed.

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco in a press statement yesterday said consistent with the Department of Justice's efforts to combat child sexual exploitation, the U.S. Attorney's Office, together with its federal and local law enforcement partners, will vigorously investigate and prosecute individuals who prey on children, and strive to rid the islands of this unconscionable crime.

"We encourage and urge members of our community to report to authorities any and all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence; and remind ourselves, that it is all of our responsibility to protect others, especially the most vulnerable such as our children and minors, from those who perpetrate these heinous crimes," Limtiaco said.

The case began in July 2013 when the Department of Public Safety received a video file from an anonymous source depicting Benavente and a minor girl engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The girl was later identified.

In 2013, a federal jury indicted Benavente and Basa on several counts of sexual exploitation of a child.

In February 2014, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sexual exploitation.

In September 2014, Benavente testified at trial of Roberto, who was charged with coercion and enticement of the same minors that Benavente sexually exploited.

The prosecution presented evidence that Roberto used a prepaid SIM card with a number ending in 3443 to contact the girls for sex.

Testifying for Roberto, Benavente said that, from mid-June to July of 2013, he in fact used the 3443 SIM card to contact the girls.

Roberto was acquitted.

Because of Benavente's testimony, the U.S. government asked the court to find him in breach of his plea agreement for allegedly lying about his use of the 3443 SIM card during the Roberto trial. Judge Manglona agreed with the prosecution that Benavente indeed lied.

In December 2014, Basa was slapped with a 17.5-year prison term for sex trafficking of children.

UTILITIES

From Page 1

charge to be included in their rate case application to CPUC which will allow CUC to have $2.6 million a year—or $5.2 million in two years, as opposed to every year as CUC management identified as their need—for their non-grant capital improvement projects.

The board approved that this surcharge will only be applied to commercial and government accounts instead of applying it across all ratepayers as recommended by their consultant, Economists.com.

Because only 65 percent of CUC's customers will shoulder the surcharge, it was said to be about $0.025 per kilowatt hour. Added to this is a $0.015 surcharge that will be applied to all ratepayers for typhoon recovery that the board approved in a separate motion, bringing the proposed surcharge for commercial and government accounts to around $0.04 per kilowatt hour.

The surcharges are deemed "investment of savings" by Economists.com as the overall rates will still be lower than they were two years ago because of the current low prices of fuel despite the additions—and some more that CUC can decide to fund to improve its facilities and financial health.

The CUC board was warned that they if they don't do something with their cash flows, they will run out of money by October that would possibly affect their operations.

For Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios, the rate adjustment would have a significant impact on the operations of businesses.

"This rate application if approved will have a significant impact on the cost of operating a business in the CNMI. A majority in the small business community are already struggling operationally with the existing high utility rates. In fact some small businesses may shut down from the pressures of remaining competitive, and this opinion is backed by CUCs consultant, Economists.com," Palacios said.

She added that the costs will more likely be passed on to consumers—possibly affecting even those ratepayers that some of the CUC board members are trying to protect from increases.

"As the cost of business goes up, so too will the cost to consumers,"

Business owner Glen Hunter echoed the sentiment.

"No matter what, at the end of the day, whenever you have those types of costs, with businesses, most of the time, they'll pass it forward. So they are still impacting the ratepayers and the private sector no matter what," Hunter said.

Palacios added that CUC may be able to find a better solution for all their consumers.

"This proposed rate hike may be better served if revisited by CUC to find a more equitable solution for all utility consumers. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will support a rate hike provided it will directly and immediately benefit the improvement and reliability of CUCs infrastructure," Palacios said.

'Unconscionable'

Although they understood the need for CUC to have more revenue, for the surcharge to be shouldered only by a certain rate class was seen as unreasonable.

"I think, collectively, rates need to go up to upgrade these systems if they're not entirely subsidized by the government. If we want good utilities then we're going to have to pay for good utilities. It is unfortunate that our system in dilapidated in the condition that it is in but if we all want to have 24-hour water, 24-hour power, and 24-hour sewer, the populous has to pay for it," business leader Alex Sablan said.

He added that it is not fair because the infrastructure projects will only be "band aid approaches to fixing the overall system."

"To continue to require the businesses to bear the brunt of infrastructure cost to a system that's falling apart is really unconscionable, I think. They really need to look at fixing it right the first time and finding the means to do so instead of this band aid approach to do so," Sablan said.

"The overall system needs an overhaul," Sablan added, "I think it's inherently unfair for the amount of money that's being proposed to go into systems that are not necessarily going to fix the overall."

Hunter said the surcharge will be adding insult to injury as businesses were also impacted by the storm but unlike the government as well as most residents, those in the private industry weren't given any type of relief and recovery assistance.

"Its adding insult to injury, I'd like to say that. We were all negatively impacted by the storm," Hunter said, "We're all dealing with costs associated with that especially businesses. We're not given any assistance by the local and federal government."

Hunter's restaurant, The Shack, was closed for six months after the Typhoon Soudelor. He was only able to get power back to their place late November.

Hunter said the need for the additional revenue stems from "poor oversight to properly deal with the infrastructure."

"We're all aware that this government is in dire need of revenue generation because they're unable to cost save," Hunter said.

He noted that no savings or budget cuts especially on travel expenses were put into place to help fund what the government needs for its share of recovery expenses.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMTI burglarized again, several tools stolen

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base was burglarized again and several tools were discovered stolen yesterday morning.

NMTI director of external relations Vic Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune* that he and their maintenance worker found out the burglary when they reported to work yesterday before 7am.

Cepeda said he noticed that the padlocks at the front gate and the sliding door of the building were cut.

He said the doorknob on the storage room was pried open.

Only the tools from the storage room were stolen.

NMTI closes on regular days at 8:30pm.

NMTI grants writer Ross S. Manglona said the burglary was disappointing.

Manglona said as faculty staff arrived yesterday morning they learned that their campus was broken into and power tools were stolen.

"We ask the community's help in making sure these culprits find it difficult to sell the stolen equipment," Manglona said.

The grants writer said the key focus is prevention for future occurrences.

Manglona urged the general public to know that if they are approached with a great deal on power tools, they should question how the individual acquired such expensive tools.

"We appreciate the help from the community in this regard. Please remember that receiving stolen items is also punishable by law," Manglona said.

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base was burglarized again and several tools were stolen. The burglary was discovered yesterday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Stolen were a Makita 4" angle grinder, Black and Decker 4" angle grinder, Makita hammer drill, Makita 3/8" drill, Dewalt screw 6mm, Makita 3" belt sander, electric planer skill, Makita palm sander, electric sawzall, electric router, Makita chop saw, Rotary chipping gun 22 volts, four finishing hammers 8 oz, two brand new Perfect Aire window type A/C unit 5000, and three butane canisters.

There was no estimated value for the stolen items.

In January 2012, NMTI was burglarized and thousands of dollars worth of tools and equipment were stolen. The case was never solved.

The late businessman Anthony Pellegrino established the only trades school in the CNMI in 2008.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public hearing announcement of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC doing business as Best Sunshine International that came out on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 and Friday, February 19, 2016, should have reflected the correct date of the scheduled public hearing for February 23, 2016 and February 24, 2016 and not February 23, 2015 and February 24, 2015 as earlier published.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: February 19, 2016

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) proposed 2016 limit of 2,000 metric tons (mt) of longline-caught bigeye tuna catch for each U.S. Pacific territory. NMFS would allow each territory to allocate up to 1,000 mt of the 2,000 mt each year to U.S. longline fishing vessels in a specified fishing agreement that meets established criteria. As accountability measures, NMFS would monitor, attribute, and restrict if necessary catches of longline-caught bigeye tuna, including catches made under a specified fishing agreement. The proposed catch limits and accountability measures are identical to those that NMFS specified in 2015. On August 31, 2015, DCRM concurred with the NMFS determination that the 2015 action would be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Coastal Resources Management Program pursuant to section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (33 U.S.C. 1456(c)(1)(C)).

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

More information on the NMFS Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits for 2016 can be found at DCRM's website: http://ow.ly/YrY31

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at erinderrington@becq.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, starting on February 22, 2016 and ending on March 22, 2016 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies and still allow DCRM to issue its concurrence or objection within the sixty (60) day response period. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

JON PEREZ

Marianas High School's Chamorro Club were among the performers in last Friday's William S. Reyes Elementary School Parents Teachers Students Family Fun Night held at the campus grounds.

Bigger WSR Family Fun Night planned

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School Parents Teachers and Students Association president Ed Arriola is hoping that organizers of next year's Family Fun Night would add more attractions to the annual event.

Hundreds of families and individuals joined Friday's event and they were treated to songs and dances, while enjoying local food and other tasty treats at the school grounds in Chalan Kanoa.

"It was my first time to attend the event as a parent and as the PTSA president. I was impressed with the turnout and support shown by the community," said Arriola.

"The organizers did an awesome job and thank you to all the staff and to everyone who became part of this project, from the planning stages to the day of the event itself," added Arriola.

He said other attractions could be added for next year, making it more fun and enjoyable to kids and adults alike.

"The important thing is the kids had fun. You can see them running around playing and enjoying the activities. The entertainment was also good and it showcased the talent of our youth," Arriola said.

WSR students, the Marianas High School Chamorro Club, and students of Hopwood Junior High School were some of the performers that entertained the crowd with songs and dances.

"I thought of new ideas that we could do for next year in order to make it more fun-filled. Hopefully, we could add carnival-style rides. There are lot of different things that we could add for next year and hopefully we could expand it."

Friday's Family Fun Night is the PTSA and school's fundraising event that would help fund repairs at WSR and other projects.

One of PTSA's projects for this year is to build a special waiting area for the parents and legal guardians of the kids at the north, central, and south wings of the school since WSR is one of the most heavily populated elementary schools on the island.

Ray Austin (vice president), Calle Eichenberger (secretary), and See Cabrera (treasurer) are the other WSR PTSA officials.

WSR thanks parents, the community, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club, the Governor's Office, Grants Management Office, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog. Reps. Ralph Demapan and John Paul Sablan, Sens. Sixto Igisomar, Jude Hofschneider, and Justo Quitugua, D&Q, Let's Go Tour Company, KZMI, and See Leung for their help in making the WSR Family Fun Night possible.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-057 (A) (B)
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 10, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORATION, A PROJECT UNDER THE DLNR-DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)
BID SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC IFB 2016-007
"PURCHASE OF WILD LAND FIRE TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (DFEMS) - TINIAN"
Bid packets will be available on Friday, February 19, 2016, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.
This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
For more information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Procurement Officer, or Mr. Jacob J. Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.
/s/ Edward C. Sablan
Board Chairman & Contracting Officer
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

JROTC helps in character building

JON PEREZ

The Chamorro Buck Battalion of Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School competes in the Unarmed Inspection event of last Saturday's CNMI Public School System Multiple School Unit JROTC Drill Meet at the Marianas High School grounds.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Command Sergeant Major Richard Basa commended the hard work and dedication shown by all the cadets that competed in last Saturday's CNMI Public School System Multiple School Unit JROTC Drill Meet at the Marianas High School grounds.

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion and the Chamorro Buck Battalion of Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School each ruled the armed and unarmed events of the competition, which is celebrating JROTC's 100th year.

"Cadets learn about discipline and teamwork with the drills while also helping them build their character, which are foundations of becoming a leader," Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Their leadership skills arise during formation and drill practice. These are future leaders in training," he added.

The Manta Ray Battalion topped the Armed Exhibition and Platoon Regulation, and the Armed and Unarmed Inspection events, while placing second in the Armed Color Guard and Unarmed Platoon Regulation, and third in the Unarmed Exhibition. They were declared the Overall winners in the Armed events.

The Chamorro Buck Battalion, the overall Unarmed champions, topped the Armed Color Guard, and Unarmed Platoon Regulation and Unarmed Exhibition events, while finishing second in the Unarmed and Armed Inspection, Unarmed Color Guard, and Armed Platoon Regulation.

SSHS and RHS will be competing in the Golden Bear West Coast National Meet in Torrance, California. This won't be the first time that the Manta Ray and Chamorro Buck battalions will be competing in the nationals as they also represented the CNMI in the past.

The Manta Ray Battalion is representing the CNMI for the fourth straight year since 2013, while the Chamorro Buck Battalion competed in 2012 when the Commonwealth first joined in Kentucky.

Basa said they decided to transfer to the Golden Bear nationals for easier travel from the CNMI to the West Coast.

Tinian Junior Senior High School's Stallion Battalion was the Unarmed Color Guard winners and came in second in the Armed and Unarmed Exhibition events, while placing third in the Armed Color Guard, and Armed and Unarmed Inspection categories.

The Ayuyu Battalion of Kagman High School finished third in the Unarmed Color Guard, Armed and Unarmed Platoon Regulation, and Armed Exhibition. The Dolphin Battalion of Marianas High School was the other team that competed.

"Competition was tough and all of their skills improved. The important thing is everyone had fun, even for the teams that did not win. Just come back strong in time for next year," said Basa.

VA benefits outreach on Feb. 25

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be conducting a Veterans Benefits Outreach on Feb 25, 2016, from 0900 to 1630, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan.

A Benefits counselor will be available to answer questions and take claims.

Points of Contact are Ruth Coleman, 322-0035, Lee Stahli 1-671-648-0090.

We are encouraging all veterans, family members, and widower to attend and avail of the services. ***(PR)***

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on March 9, 2016, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Saipan World Resort, Lilac Room.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – November 12, 2015
V. ACTION ITEMS
a. Ratification/Approval of FY 2017 DD Basic Grant Budget
b. Ratification/Approval of FY 2017 AT Act Grant Budget
c. Ratification/Approval of Proposed FY 2017 Commonwealth Respite Service Program Budget
VI. REPORTS
a. Chairman
b. Executive Director
c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
VII. OLD BUSINESS
a. Disability Network Partners Update
b. March 2016 Developmental Disabilities & Employment Awareness Month
c. Commonwealth Respite Service Program Update
d. 2017 – 2021 DD Basic Grant Five Year State Plan Focus Group Meetings and Surveys Updates
VIII. NEW BUSINESS
a. Transition Coalition
b. Autism Awareness Month
c. NMC-UCEDD Data Collection/Survey Monkey
XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
XII. MISCELLANEOUS
XIII. NEXT MEETING
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ John Demapan
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

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- Wednesday, February 24th 8:30am - 4:00pm
- Thursday, February 25th 8:30am - 4:00pm

at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

Ross Hearing Aids

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234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

Hocog signs Tinian appropriation bill into law

Acting governor Hocog signed into law Tinian Local Law 19-10 last Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016.

This local bill provides funding for the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan for important public programs.

This includes $1.1 million to pay the 25 percent retirement cut restoration as well as payments to satisfy the United States Geological Survey (USGS) judgment in United States v. Borja that recently led to the ceasing of casino local funds to begin paying the debt that dates back to a number of years.

Other programs funded by TLL 19-10 include the funding to support locally funded employees under the Office of the Mayor, the monthly subsistence allowance for patients of dialysis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, and other specified illnesses, payment of hotel accommodations for Tinian medical referral patients, and funding for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Program.

"I would like to thank our Tinian Legislative Delegation for their work and support in passing this bill, as well as acting governor Hocog for signing the bill into law. The delegation and the honorable acting governor's support gives us the funding source to address a debt to USGS as well as other critical programs for the people of Tinian," said Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas.

"With cooperation and teamwork, Tinian will meet challenges head on and accomplish them," he added. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, sitting, signed into law Tinian Local Law 19-10 last Thursday in the presence of, from left, Senate President Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian).

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-008

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Trades Foreperson: Mechanical
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: Provide lead technical supervision to trades staff and other subordinates. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as an TRADES FOREPERSON: MECHANICAL in a diesel engine power plant. Performs the journey level maintenance and/or operational activities; Coordinate and assign daily activities/work; Compiling data and preparing regulatory reports; Operate and maintain complex instrumentation, equipment and/or testing equipment; Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational problems; Supervise other Trades staff including assisting in the performance evaluations and coordinating training; Ensures that employees follow policies and procedures and maintain a healthy and safe working environment; Prepare schedule of activities or special projects and ensures necessary parts, materials and tools are available; Provides technical advice, support and guidance to staff, other CUC department and other agencies; Performs technical design on electrical system; Performs inventory and supply checks of tools, equipment, parts and materials; Identifies resource needs and processes requisitions. Ensures availability of resources to meet project and operational needs; Gathers and compiles data's, prepares and maintains regulatory and status reporting; Performs inspections of projects and operations; Ensures policies and procedures are adhered to, and that service quality and productivity levels are maintained; Attends to trouble calls after normal hours; Practices SAFETY; Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas; Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $39,062 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1).
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Mechanic. High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had: 5 years of journey level experience are in a diesel engine power plant. 5 years of journey level experience are to be performing Mechanical duties. At least one (1) of the four (5) years must include leading a crew. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards. Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff. Performing and overseeing skilled journey level maintenance, operations and installation. Performing inspections of projects and operations to ensure quality and productivity levels. Ensuring the adherence to policies and procedures. Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational issues. Recommending and implementing solutions. Providing technical advice, support and guidance to staff, other CUC department and other agencies. Processing requisitions to meet resource needs for projects and operations. Performing technical design on electrical system. Gathering and compiling data. Preparing and maintaining regulatory and status reports and related documentation. Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-009

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Trades Technician: Mechanic
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation. Primary duties are as a TRADES TECHNICIAN MECHANIC: Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures; Provide assistances in monitoring and complying with regulatory compliance; Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility; Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions; Receives trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas; Analyzes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders, data, and prepares reports; Perform reconditioning of used parts; Perform alignment of pumps and motors at auxiliary sites; Bending, cutting, grinding and fabricating various types of materials; Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $28,115 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : Four (4)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Mechanic or related field. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience performing mechanic duties on 15,000 HP or larger diesel prime mover engines and associated auxiliary units. Experience on Mitsubishi MAN, EMD, Cummins and/or Nordberg diesel engines desired but not required. Knowledge of: Mechanical principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Mathematical concepts; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Skill in: Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work of various plant systems; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining historical data; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work primarily inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-010

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Trades Technician: Electrician
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties as an TRADES TECHNICIAN: ELECTRICIAN for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations, troubleshooting and/or repairs.Generator, switchgears and engine control panels of various brands/make/model. Motor Control Center. Transformer. Protection relays. Overhead crane Read and interpret electrical diagrams and codes. USA standards, Japanese standards, European standards, & NEC (National Electrical Code). Knowledge in AC / DC system, Single and three phase system, Lighting and outlets, Paging System, Fire Alarm, & Battery Bank. Familiarize with the usage of various electrical test equipment; Multimeter tester, Insulation resistance tester, Transformer tester, Ground resistance tester, & Hydrometer. Familiarize with the usage of various electrical tools Crimper, Pipe bender, Hydraulic knock out puncher, Pipe threader, Micrometer, & Vernier caliper. Familiarize with the usage of various power and pneumatic tools Portable drill, Grinder, & Impact wrench. Operates specialized and heavy equipment. Emergency generator, Forklift, & Overhead crane. Attend to Trouble calls after normal working hours. Maintain of daily reports Practices SAFETY. Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $28,115 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : Two (2).
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Electrician or related field. Vocational Certification and other specialized certificates. Must demonstrate having had: 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant. 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in performing electrical duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Performing skilled maintenance, operations, troubleshooting and repair. Recommending or implementing solutions. Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance. Math and reading. Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports.Utilizing all electrical tools and test equipment. Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-011

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Trades Technician: Operator
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation. Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks. Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities. Responsible for monitoring all Plant systems as assigned. Will act as the responsible person when working without supervision. Responsible for entire plant during operating periods. May direct and/or instruct all other personnel as required during all other periods. May be on call for emergency response. Primary duties are as an TRADES TECHNICIAN OPERATOR: Operates, controls, monitors and inspects generators, switchgears, motor controls, transformers, protection relays, circuit breakers, compressors, RO system and other associated equipment; Takes readings from, meters, gauges and computers at established intervals, reads and interprets data to take corrective steps as necessary; Inspects records and log book entries, and communicates with other plant personnel in order to assess equipment-operating status; Performs systems operations to regulate and coordinate transmission load, frequencies and line voltages; Identifies potential issues and operational concerns; performs operational inspections and symptomatic maintenance; provides status reports; evaluates and implements solutions and corrective actions under emergency situations; Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $28,115 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : Two (2)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Considerable knowledge in operation, repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant operations and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication an interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-012

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Trades Technician: Welder
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a TRADES TECHNICIAN: WELDER for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $28,115 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Welder or related field. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing welder duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-013

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Trades Technician: Machinist
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a machinist for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $28,115 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing machinist duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-014

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Assistant Engineer: Electrical
(Rota Power Plant)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the section manager or his/her designee. As assigned, supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Coordinates and oversees scheduled maintenance activities and small engineering studies to ensure adherence with specifications and standards. Monitors and inspects equipment for performance measures; performs preventative maintenance and assists with mechanical or electrical work; assists with the installation of equipment and related components; and gathers and prepares required hardware and tools. Performs engineering inspections; performs troubleshooting; researches methods and evaluates alternatives for improved efficiencies; and analyzes and recommends corrective measures. Collects and maintains operational data and records; prepares reports, statistics, design calculations, and engineering drawings. Reviews and evaluates vendor proposals; responds to customer inquiries and information requests; Monitors and inventories equipment and supplies; provides recommendations for replacement or procurement of required resources. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Rota Power Plant**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $37,066.00 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Surveying methods and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Customer service principles; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Coordinating and overseeing maintenance activities and engineering studies; Reading and interpreting plans, specifications, maps and related technical documentation; Performing inspections, survey work and collecting and reporting related data; Assisting with mechanical and electrical work and installations; Gathering, organizing, analyzing and evaluating technical data; Researching, troubleshooting and problem solving; Providing critical thinking in analyzing and developing solutions; Providing customer assistance; Researching service or project status and providing feedback; Performing mathematical calculations and estimating resources and costs; Preparing technical reports, drawings, statistics, and related engineering documents; Applying safe work practices; Monitoring equipment and supplies inventory and making replacement recommendations; Reviewing and evaluating vendor proposals; Providing customer service; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Pre-employment drug testing required.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

IRS' crate of bad apples tend to keep turning up

If you are fired for poor performance or doing something unethical, possibly illegal, what do you think the chances are of getting hired again by the same employer? Such a scenario is practically unthinkable in the private sector, but apparently is fairly common in government.

According to a report from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, of the 7,168 employees rehired by the Internal Revenue Service from Jan. 1, 2010, to Sept. 30, 2013, 824 (11.5 percent) had prior employment issues. Some were rather serious issues, including several cases of fraud.

There were "141 former employees with prior substantiated tax issues, including five who the IRS had found had willfully failed to file their federal tax returns," the report revealed. "Other substantiated issues from previous IRS employment included unauthorized access to taxpayer information, leave abuse, falsification of official forms, unacceptable performance, misuse of IRS property and off-duty misconduct."

One employee had "Do Not Rehire" written in his file because he had been absent without leave for a total of 312 hours—about two months of collecting a paycheck for no work.

A number of the bad employees were repeat offenders. In fact, nearly 20 percent those with prior conduct or performance issues had new conduct or performance issues, including unauthorized access to tax account information or tax noncompliance.

Incredibly, "IRS officials stated that prior conduct and performance issues do not play a significant role in deciding the candidates who are best qualified for hiring," the report noted.

"These individuals got fired for a reason," Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., wrote in a column for the Daily Caller. "The practice of routinely giving these bad apples a second chance is an insult to every hardworking or job-seeking person in this country. We must end it." To that end, Sen. Burr has introduced S.2439, the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act of 2016, which would prohibit the agency from rehiring previously fired employees.

It is sad that such a commonsense measure is needed, and it should be expanded to the entire government. It is already next to impossible to fire a government employee, even for cause. Rehiring the worst of the worst and rewarding their past misdeeds is a double slap in the face to taxpayers.

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KNOWING HOW TOUGH IT IS TO HACK A SMARTPHONE MAKES ME FEEL SAFER...
I WISH I FELT THAT WAY REGARDING DANGEROUS PEOPLE WITH GUNS...
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Eliot Spitzer and Svetlana Travis

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune*.*

The scion to a real estate magnate in the Bronx was AG, later became the governor of the State of New York until he figured in a prostitution ring scandal that led to his resignation.

This month, he was accused for allegedly assaulting $5K-a-night hooker, Russian-born Svetlana Travis, at the Plaza Hotel. She called 9-1-1 after slitting her wrist, and Spitzer allegedly was in the room when the police arrived. Later at the hospital, she claimed that Spitzer choked her.

Spitzer's lawyer denied the allegation though he admitted that Eliot and Svetlana knew each other prior to the incident. She recently left for Russia, confessing that she made up the allegation to avoid being sent to a mental institution. Spitzer was exonerated.

But the former governor has a history of seeking paid sexual gratification and I am phrasing this as objectively as I can because of our propensity to be condemnatory of persons who "sell" their bodies, and those who pay for them.

A friend in Hawaii once laughed out allegations of prostitution since she claimed that there were more folks in the suburb who "sell" their bodies for the comfort of a home and social status. In the diplomatic corps, she sent three kids to university at the time I knew her, divorced a husband in Australia, and I believe she referred to her own history of supporting her lifestyle on the meager salary of her diplomatic office. She also had a house in London and Paris!

I remember a Saipan indigene who flew out to Hong Kong so he can pay someone $500-a-night for unencumbered sexual relationship on the Kowloon side (the Victoria side was a bit more expensive). He claimed that many of his friends did the same thing, especially government officials who were never reluctant to officially travel to Manila and Hong Kong (and discretely to Macau). One such official even got in trouble later for charging a night's revelry to the CNMI government! "It is ten times cheaper on Saipan," I said. "Yeah, but this is a small island," he replied. The social face, you know.

Pinays on Saipan in the old days regal customers of their misfortune of why they ended up sharing bedtime stories with strangers, but the Chinese workers in the garment industry were not at all apologetic for choosing their alternative cash source. It was purely a money transaction.

Svetlana once wrote: "Sex is sex and money is money." The moralism that accompanied Pinay choices came with Hispanic delicadeza and the religious ethos that came with it; not so with the ladies from around Shanghai and Dong Bei. It was a money transaction though they did not advertise it at home as their conservative folks thought they were earning from sewing labels to clothes.

Their reluctance has to do with social face, *mienzi*, rather than moralism. The practice of healthy but paid girls were quite common and acceptable in Japan, Korea, and China, with the well-off man even allowed more than one consort, later labeled by moralists as "concubines." Unable to buy a lifetime, one went retail.

I knew of a Tinian lady who kept herself and her bar girls available for other services other than serving alcohol. Before going to Tinian, she distributed methamphetamine to businessmen on Saipan, and moved to Tinian only because her boyfriend felt safer there, and they were all right until he got hooked on his own goods. He also hid from folks' interested in his expired visa. He was later deported; she started distributing meth on her own until the local boys decided to acquire for her a "felon" title in the brand new Saipan penitentiary.

The lady was detained even after her prison term was completed when the authorities discovered that they let her passport expire, so she stayed behind bars on island until a lawyer friend sued for her release when I butted into the picture. She was a felon, all right, but she was clear that as far as her relationship to guys on Tinian, "money was just money", and she was not lacking of the green paper for whatever services she provided.

I managed to get her home to China as soon as her legal papers were straightened and before the feds can get her deported. It was probably a mistake. I saw her home but the last I heard was that she moved to Shanghai from Dong Bei. I assume she picked up the trade to distribute meth there, too. A Chinese friend from Shenyang moved to Shanghai and just posted bail out of prison for distributing the stuff. China as a whole suffers from the calming effect of the chemical sold cheaply, especially as Chaoxian next door produces enough to keep the world calm. Recent incidences of attempted entries of the drug into many posts, Saipan included, indicate a global demand.

Meth of pandemic proportion proliferates on Tinian. Svetlana averred: "Sex is sex and money is money." Our Tinian friend totally understood the difference. How did I know? .... Well, about that nasty weather . . .

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Afghan couple's elopement brings attention to 'honor killings,' lack of international aid

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Zakia and Ali grew up on adjacent farms in the remote Afghan mountain province of Bamyan, where the Taliban famously blew up two huge sandstone Buddhas 15 years ago.

They played together as children when they took their families' sheep to graze on the mountainsides. Strict custom forbade them from having any contact once she reached puberty, but he smuggled her a cellphone and took the unheard step of proposing a love marriage to her parents. However, he was from the Shiite Hazara sect and she was a Sunni Tajik, so her shocked family forbade the union.

The story of their elopement, their life on the run and her family's efforts to kill her—for the dishonor she supposedly brought them by an unacceptable relationship—is chronicled in "The Lovers: Afghanistan's Romeo and Juliet, the True Story of How They Defied Their Families and Escaped an Honor Killing," a fascinating new book by New York Times correspondent Rod Nordland. (Nordland says he never got as much email as he did for his articles on the couple.)

But the story of Zakia and Ali is also a reminder that the practice of "honor killings" continues to thrive in a belt extending from the Mediterranean to Pakistan, mainly in Muslim communities. The book raises thorny moral questions of whether and how outsiders can fight this horrifying practice and whether their intervention makes things better or worse.

There is very little accurate data on the number of honor killings worldwide since they are rarely reported. Women are targeted by family members for offenses like refusing an arranged marriage, seeking a divorce, alleged adultery, or even glancing sideways at a strange man. Even rape can be the cause of an honor killing, since the girl or woman is blamed for having brought shame on the family by enticing the rapist.

"The numbers are underreported everywhere and no one thinks police reports are reliable," says Catherine Warrick, an associate professor of political science at Villanova University who has studied the subject. In 2000, the United Nations estimated that 5,000 women a year were victims, but human-rights groups believe the number could be at least four times higher. In Pakistan alone, such groups estimate the annual number at 3,000 to 4,000, while official statistics put it at 1,000 cases.

The killers usually get away with murder, which only encourages more of them. "Honor killings are not endorsed in Islamic law at all," says Warrick. However, misinterpretations of sharia, and traditional cultural beliefs, usually back the murderers. So do courts and local police.

According to provisions in civil law, in countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, a woman can be jailed for "immorality." If a family member hacks her or stabs her to death, that same family can forgive the killer. In other words, if a brother murders his sister for an alleged violation of family honor, his mother and father can "forgive" him and he is home free.

Clearly, there's little hope for victimized women unless such laws are revised.

Nordland's book raises the tricky question of whether publicity helps or harms a victim. He learned about Zakia and Ali from Bamyan's director of women's affairs, Fatima Kazimi, who sent out a desperate email seeking help.

The local court had suspended Kazimi for placing Zakia in a women's shelter. Had Nordland not intervened, the young woman's family probably would have taken her out and killed her. But the subsequent publicity in the Times made Zakia and Ali's case notorious and ensured that her family could track them. Nordland stepped outside his journalistic role and helped them with cash, but they had to go on the run.

On balance, I'd argue that publicity is a good thing, because it may embarrass a government into taking action.

Take Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy's "A Girl in the River," nominated for an Oscar for short subject documentary. The film tells the story of Saba, a 19-year-old Pakistani who was shot in the head by her father for running off to marry her boyfriend. Thrown into the river in a sack, she somehow survived. Obaid's documentary has provoked Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to vow that Pakistan will eradicate "evil" honor killings.

Of course, Sharif would also need to reform the courts and the police so they would obey any new legislation. But at least it would be a start if he follows through on his promise.

Here are some additional ways outsiders might help:

First, international aid agencies should devise projects that educate men about the value of treating their women properly. A few years ago, I visited Suraya Pakzad, a courageous Pakistani woman who runs women's shelters in Herat, Afghanistan, and who had organized such classes. She enticed men to participate by combining the classes with a project to deliver water to the community (a project run by Aldo Magazzeni, a Philadelphia-area businessman committed to such causes). This is the kind of out-of-the-box thinking worth supporting.

Second, U.S. officials—who have spent millions promoting women's rights in Afghanistan—should continue to support Afghan women who risk their lives for these values. Zakia would have been killed had a female official not gotten her into a women's shelter. But "shelters are 100 percent international-donor funded in Afghanistan," says Heather Barr of Human Rights Watch. Will the United States and Europe continue to fund them as our attention to Afghanistan wanes?

Finally, the United States should put its visas behind its values. U.S. officials brag about their support for Afghan women, yet the U.S. Embassy in Kabul showed no interest in granting Zakia and Ali humanitarian visas, says Nordland. They are still living in hiding in Bamyan, facing sure death if—no, when—her family finds them. Surely we can do better than that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enough is enough

"More security, more jobs" penned by *Saipan Tribune*'s Dennis B. Chan on February 22, 2016, underscores the arrogance and unwillingness of select members of Congress to listen, hear, and understand the concerns of the Chamorro people of the Mariana islands.

The Chamorro people of the Northern Marianas have not given consent to the Pentagon's desire to lease the island of Pagan for live bombing and live fire exercises.

The Chamorro people of the Marianas Islands have not given full consent to Pentagon desires to grow military activities on Tinian island.

Yet both Rep. Wittman and Rep. Bordallo omit to acknowledge the existence and importance of our Chamorro cultural and total environmental and human health concerns that our people continually express as major concerns.

The behavior patterns of military commanders and select members of Congress is to continually turn a blind eye on discussions that talk about the ugly destruction and harm that major military activity will have on both Pagan and Tinian. This is both arrogant and hubristic because it demonstrates a level of ruthlessness that is not needed.

Let's remember, Guam was environmentally compromised by the military for decades as the military 1) sprayed Rainbow Agents back in the 1960s and 1970s, 2) poisoned the subsurface water supply that sits directly below Andersen Air Force Base, and 3) never cleaned up former defense sites on Guam that were abandoned.

Let's also remember that Rep. Bordallo, who is Guam's sole non-voting representative in Congress, continually under represents those in Guam who are unsure, neutral, or opposed to another military transformation in Guam. I find it unreasonable and unconscionable that Ms. Bordallo would go to Tinian, Saipan, or anywhere else to put a positive spin on what the military wants to do in our island chain.

If the military takes Pagan for its training desires and does the same in Tinian, our islands will be permanently damaged and destroyed environmentally and our rare Chamorro culture and fabric will be permanently harmed and damaged. Toxic substances will be introduced into our islands, more stress will be placed on limited natural resources and our island chain will become a more attractive target for China's PLA(N).

Enough is enough.

A more robust and honest discussion between all stakeholders needs to be made because the dangers and harms to our total island environment cannot be replaced. The military on the other hand, can pick up and train elsewhere and has no obligation to clean up the messes it will make. Just look at what has not happened on Guam.

The United States Congress along with top Pentagon officials need to adjust their strategy and listen, hear and understand all the concerns expressed by the Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands chain.

One step that can be taken immediately is to place Northern Marianas Islands Congressional Representative Gregorio Kilili Sablan on several House Armed Services Subcommittees to include Readiness, Seapower and Projection Forces, Strategic Forces and Tactical and Land Forces.

To borrow a recent word used by U.S. presidential candidate Bernie Sanders during debates, Chamorros and islanders must "demand" that our voices and total list of concerns are heard and acted upon by key Pentagon officials and members of Congress because the desires of the Pentagon will have disproportionate harms, damages, and injuries to our total Mariana Islands environment and our fragile Chamorro culture and social fabric systems will be permanently harmed and torn.

Rick Perez
Via email

Your trash, your responsibility

On Saturday, Feb. 6, I and four others cleaned up the garbage at the Japanese lighthouse on Navy Hill. We spent four hours collecting all the garbage from within, on, and around the grounds of the lighthouse, also using machetes to cut back shrubs blocking the main entrance, and cutting grass in front of the interpretive sign at the front, along with collecting some debris from Soudelor, and putting it all on the roadside in front of the lighthouse. The mayor's office had kindly agreed to have it all picked up on the following Monday, which was done early that morning.

We filled six extra large garbage bags, about the same number of smaller bags, plus the debris. On that day, no garbage was visible; sadly it was not to remain that way for long. Unfortunately, I was unable to persuade the mayor's office to have a garbage can placed there, along with weekly pickup. The spiral stairs to the top had become very hazardous with all the garbage that had piled up.

Since I live close by the lighthouse, I have watched many sunsets from there, and enjoyed the great view of Saipan that it presents. I see many tourists and locals enjoying it as well. A day or two after our cleanup, sitting there with two people that had worked on the cleanup, we almost got hit on the head with an empty drink container tossed from the top of the lighthouse; presenting the group of kids and teenagers with their trash, an argument ensued between us and the older kids, and both parties left angry, which I immediately wished I could apologize for.

For one week I went almost daily to clean up the small amount of trash that showed up, trying to retain the work that we'd done there.

Watching the sunset there eight days later, I witnessed two separate groups of people get back in their cars, roll down their windows and throw out their trash, and drive away. Learning my lesson about confronting people about their poor behavior, I did and said nothing, but at that point I gave up cleaning up after these slobs. None of these people were tourists.

This lighthouse was built in 1934, and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 (according to Wikipedia). It deserves some respect, as does the whole of Saipan, which is not a place that seems to be cared for by a lot of the people who live here; there is garbage just about everywhere you look on this island. No, garbage, and the lighthouse, is not the greatest concern after Soudelor, there are many more pressing issues. One of those is tourism, which is what pays for most people to live on Saipan. If I was a tourist I would be disgusted by how many of us treat this island ("protect our reef, protect our future," what reef? It's dead. "Best Sunshine"/casinos are good for Saipan? But those are other subjects), I know I am as a resident. To the people who dump their trash anywhere on this island, when you bought the stuff, whatever it is, it became your responsibility to dispose of it properly, whether there's a garbage can or not. Everybody needs to do their part to retain what beauty Saipan has left.

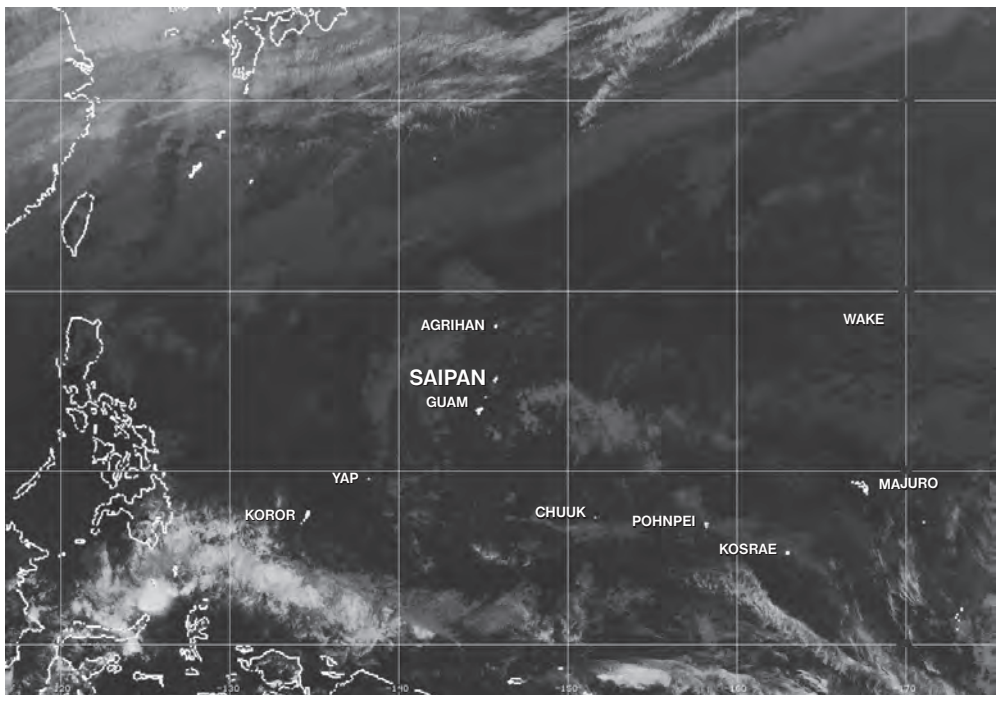
William Boggess
Navy Hill

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly clear with a slight chance of light showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:22 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Iwo To island at 25N146E to 21N140E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 17N. Patchy clouds and showers are seen along an up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating widely-scattered showers near and east of the Marianas to near Chuuk and Pohnpei between 6N and 15N from 145E to 162E. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from 3N130E to end at EQ145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring north of this feature from south of Koror to south of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 7N130E to 1N151E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲82	▼78
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲78	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲42	▼20
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲63	▼55
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼65
London	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼30
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲85	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼73
Melbourne	Windy	▲103	▼71
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼69
New York	Sunny	▲49	▼35
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
Paris	Showers	▲47	▼33
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼25
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼47
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼31
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲37	▼18
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲51	▼42
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼38

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
8:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
7:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:48 PM	6:41 AM
Wednesday	7:36 PM	7:21 AM
Thursday	8:23 PM	8:01 AM
Friday	9:10 PM	8:39 AM
Saturday	9:57 PM	9:18 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-015

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Assistant Engineer: Mechanical
(Rota Power Plant)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Resident General Manager Rota or his/her designee. As assigned, supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Coordinates and oversees scheduled maintenance activities and small engineering studies to ensure adherence with specifications and standards. Monitors and inspects equipment for performance measures; performs preventative maintenance and assists with mechanical or electrical work; assists with the installation of equipment and related components; and gathers and prepares required hardware and tools. Performs engineering inspections; performs troubleshooting; researches methods and evaluates alternatives for improved efficiencies; and analyzes and recommends corrective measures. Collects and maintains operational data and records; prepares reports, statistics, design calculations, and engineering drawings. Reviews and evaluates vendor proposals; responds to customer inquiries and information requests; Monitors and inventories equipment and supplies; provides recommendations for replacement or procurement of required resources. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Rota Power Plant**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $37,066.00 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Surveying methods and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Customer service principles; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Coordinating and overseeing maintenance activities and engineering studies; Reading and interpreting plans, specifications, maps and related technical documentation; Performing inspections, survey work and collecting and reporting related data; Assisting with mechanical and electrical work and installations; Gathering, organizing, analyzing and evaluating technical data; Researching, troubleshooting and problem solving; Providing critical thinking in analyzing and developing solutions; Providing customer assistance; Researching service or project status and providing feedback; Performing mathematical calculations and estimating resources and costs; Preparing technical reports, drawings, statistics, and related engineering documents; Applying safe work practices; Monitoring equipment and supplies inventory and making replacement recommendations; Reviewing and evaluating vendor proposals; Providing customer service; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-016

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Engineering Technician, Senior
(Water & Wastewater Engineering Division)

DUTIES: Performs specialized support and routine technical activities related to engineering and water system operations. As assigned, serves as a lead worker making work assignments and monitoring the completion of work by others. May be required to do a set of or all of the following tasks: Utilizes Computer Aided Design and other technical systems, prepares plans, profiles, sketches, as-built drawings and reports in accordance with established standards. Conducts field survey work; collects data and assists in providing staking sheets including cost, materials and labor estimates for services or projects; monitors and verifies project materials used and adherence with specifications. Performs project and site works inspections; reviews and reports water outage information and water production data; analyzes and reports damaged equipment information; works with contractor and manufacturers regarding warranty coverage. Conducts construction of sanitation facilities of medium to large scale of ordinary to complex systems; Conducts field inventories of equipment and maintains data related to inventory; prepares requisition vouchers for approval; recommends procurement of required materials; tracks procurement documents. Provides customer assistance and troubleshooting of issues which may include: water pressure research; addressing concerns related to encroachment and right-of-way; verifying application status; and restoring water service. Conducts research and verifies information for customers and project engineers. Analyzes data and documentation; creates and maintains system information in databases; prepares activity reports for management. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $30,867.00 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1).
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Education: Associate's Degree in Engineering Technology or directly related field and five years of general engineering support experience and construction oversight; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Surveying methods and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; construction methods, water system operations, and troubleshooting; Customer service principles; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Prioritizing, assigning and monitoring the completion of work by others; Reading and interpreting plans, specifications, maps and related technical documentation; Performing inspections, survey work and collecting and reporting related data; Researching, troubleshooting and problem solving; Providing critical thinking in analyzing and developing solutions; Conducting and monitoring field inventories and equipment; Providing customer assistance; Researching service or project status and providing feedback; Performing mathematical calculations and estimating resources and costs; Preparing technical reports, drawings and related documents used in assigned area of responsibility; Applying safe work practices; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-017

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Chief Electrical Engineer: Licensed Electrical Engineer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee. As assigned, supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Manages complex water, wastewater, or electrical projects and executing programs and elements of the stipulated order as required by EPA; coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, correspondence and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; scheduling project elements; evaluating proposals; monitoring project progress and funding; and, recommending project selection. Prepares engineering calculations, plans and specifications; designs water, wastewater or other utility related facilities; collects data and performs project research related to project and operational costs, and efficiency analysis. Manages construction and performs contract management work; evaluates bid documents; maintains correspondence with contractors; reviews submittals; interprets drawings and technical specifications; and evaluates work for compliance with contract provisions. Performs construction inspections; reviews and processes payment requests from contractors. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Power: Transmission & Distribution, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $100,000 per annum.
Salary is negotiable based on specialized experience as a water and wastewater utility manager in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia. Also, based on educational achievement and specific (unexpired) certifications stated in this ad as preferred requirements.
CONTRACT : Two (2) year, subject to renewal.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Licensed PE, 5 years professional engineering, and experience working in a power transmission and distribution system. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Research methods; Project management principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Quality assurance principles; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Managing complex projects and construction activities; Developing project scope and plan; Monitoring project schedules, status and compliance; Preparing plan designs, calculations, technical specifications, and other technical documentation; Planning and designing utility facilities; Performing technical review of submittals; Interpreting drawings and technical specifications; Monitoring project funding and expenditures; Maintaining project files and records; Performing research and efficiency studies; Responding to technical inquiries and information requests; Identifying, troubleshooting and investigating issues; Recommending, developing and implementing solutions; Conducting inspections; Collecting, analyzing and researching field data; Administering and monitoring contract compliance; Assisting with bid administration processes; Applying safe work practices; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-018

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, March 07, 2016

Trades Assistant (Lineperson)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director Rota or designee. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools. Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues. Responds to trouble calls as needed. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site. Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used. Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete. Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports. Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating; Assisting with equipment inspections; Monitoring gauges on engine generators; Reading meters and collecting data; Monitor and maintain pump fuel; Operating incinerators; Operating oil and water separator pump; Servicing and preparing oil filters; Responding to customer calls; Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles; Fabricating materials for required parts. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $16,742.00 per annum. (Salary is negotialble based on qualifications and experience.)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

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Junior Thespians make history in Nat'l tilt

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Four of the NMI's junior high students were hailed as "superiors" after performing and competing in the Junior International Thespian Society tilt in Denison, Texas last week. The CNMI team also received the "Made the Stage" accolade, the highest performance honor in their category and a first for the CNMI.

Dan Dan Middle School's Jonathan Wolf, Hopwood Junior High School's Bonnie Gios Sangana, and San Antonio Middle School's Lovely Mariana and Nehemiah Fernandez represented the islands in the weeklong tilt where they earned individual honors.

According to Harold Easton, the Thespians Western Pacific Islands chapter director, the students were invited to the first highly competitive competition workshop, which only a limited number of students attend.

All of the student competitors received super ratings at the end of the competition for their respective performances.

The tandem of Mariana and Fernandez were asked to perform their Duet in the National Individual Events Showcase during the competition as well.

"The team did a great job on stage and represented us all in the best possible way with an awesome performance," Easton said.

The students were coached by Marilyn Mendoza, Maria Mettao, and Kristine Wolf.

Wolf, for her part, said that the performances left them in "awe," She added, "We could not get any more proud."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Hopwood Junior High School's Bonnie Gios Sangana, San Antonio Middle School's Nehemiah Fernandez, Dan Dan Middle School's Jonathan Wolf, and San Antonio Middle School's Lovely Mariana pose for a photo after their arrival from Denison, Texas.

A lot more to discover in study of ancient Chamorros

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Molecular Anthropologist Dr. Miguel Vilar said there are a lot more things that are waiting to be discovered in the study of the ancient Chamorro people in the Marianas, adding that more research is needed to disseminate the information.

Vilar, who had a one-night only lecture on Researching the Origins and Genetic Distinctiveness of the Chamorros: A Bi-Parental Analyses last month, said diseases and language are some of the other factors that researches could concentrate into.

"Diseases may be a factor, in changing the dynamics of a population. But we do avoid looking at DNA associated with diseases, so that eliminates that factor in the parts of the DNA we analyze," said Vilar in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Vilar

"[Still], it does play a factor in the survival of some lineages and the replacement of some lineages with others," he added.

Though not a linguist, he also sees a pattern of similarity between the Chamorro and Filipino languages as both are included in the Malayo-Polynesian subgroup of the Austronesian migrants.

"I am not a linguist, so I would have to consult with others who are in such a study. But I do think that it is worth doing that kind of language study and comparing the genetics and language similarities/differences," said Vilar.

"It would be a great study to see if the languages share the same root words, or if it's a matter of borrowed words. But it should probably be a linguist to lead that study."

Researchers also have a hypothesis that Austronesians who first arrived in the Marianas—Guam and the CNMI—were both male and female. "We think that the males did more exploring, but when it came to settling new places, they came together."

Vilar said that the Austronesians also settled along present day Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands before heading further out to the Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Polynesia.

"However, the group that reached the Marianas did not go that way, they came from Eastern Indonesia northeast to the Marianas. To Palau, they may have come from several directions—in Indonesia, New Guinea, and FSM."

401(k) programs topic at SHRM meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) NMI Chapter will have Gabrielle Bamba, director of Client Services for ASC Trust Corporation, presenting at its February general membership meeting.

Bamba will provide an introduction to 401(k) programs, eligibility and enrollment, investments and returns, tax advantages, and a variety of related topics.

This program will be of special interest to all HR professionals and managers, refreshing your knowledge on employee retirement programs, as well as giving all an idea of what opportunities companies have to assist employees in planning for their future.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's on Thursday, Feb. 25, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and HR professionals and staff to better understand 401(k) programs and employee/employer retirement benefit programs. Bamba will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation includes the delicious PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Pina Deleon Guerrero by phone at 236-8821 or by e-mail at pdlguerrero@laolaobaygolf.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

Small craft, high surf advisories until Wednesday

Small craft and high surf advisories remain in effect until 6am on Wednesday, according to the CNMI Emergency Operations Center.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog is advising the general public and inexperience mariners—especially those operating smaller vessels—to avoid navigating in these conditions and take extra precautionary measures on entering and leaving harbor and inlets. He said the public should void venturing into the water along exposed reefs and beaches especially those facing east as rip currents will be life threatening.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, the east swell will produce hazardous surf along east facing reefs for a few days.

East winds of 20 kt and combined seas of 8 to 10 feet will produce hazardous conditions Sunday for operators of small craft.

Winds will diminish slightly Sunday night, but will still contribute to hazardous conditions over the next few days. The highest seas are expected mainly east of the islands. Expect hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet along east facing reefs Sunday through mid-week. ***(PR)***

Unforgettable Bermin F. Weilbacher

The Federated States of Micronesia lost one of its statesman and a well-known goodwill ambassador. Bermin F. Weilbacher passed away last week in Thailand where he was receiving medical treatment for an ailment.

Born in Kosrae by a Kosraen mother and a half Pohnpeian/German father, Weilbacher attended Our Lady of Mercy School in Kolonia, Pohnpei before promoting to Pacific Island Central School, the only secondary high school in the region.

Weilbacher

After high school, he received a scholarship to study at East-West Center at the University of Hawaii where he received a degree in Agricultural Economics. It was at East-West Center where Bermin met his future wife Penny, a Thai student who was also studying there. After completing their college education, the newly wed couple moved to Thailand where Bermin worked for a private company while Penny raised their children. In early 1970, he was offered a job on Saipan at the Agriculture Department in the old TTPI government. He moved to Saipan and quickly rose through the ranks to become the director of the Department of Agriculture. From there, he was appointed deputy district administrator for Ponape island, and later became Distad.

While on Saipan, Bermin made many friends through his contacts with the local community. He helped farmers increased their crop production by introducing new methods of raising crops. He was also instrumental in the flame tree project on airport road. An avid tennis player, he often partnered with the late businessman Jose "Joeten" Tenorio and former governor Benigno Fitial. But, what made Bermin more well-known while living here was his ability to entertain friends and guests. With his ever-present ukulele, Bermin would serenade the partygoers with songs he learned while studying in Hawaii. His favorite song was entitled "Tiny Bubbles" by the late Hawaiian idol Don Ho. Along with his friend David Sablan Sr. and, sometimes with the late Louis Limes, the trio would serenade the partygoers until the beer ran out. For Bermin, singing songs that everyone can join in was the ultimate satisfaction of a night out. So, he played mostly island music to make everyone feel part of the crowd.

Bermin held several high profile positions in the newly established FSM government before he retired from government service in the mid-1990s. His last job was as the chief of staff for President Bailey Olter. Bermin is survived by his wife Penny, two daughters, and three sons. His remains will arrive on Pohnpei on Wednesday for a traditional burial, as he held one of the highest titles ever bestowed on a commoner by the Nanmwarkis of the five kingdoms of Pohnpei. ***(PR)***

Death toll from Fiji cyclone hits 18 as aid sent to islands

AP
In this Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016 aerial photo supplied by the New Zealand Defense Force, debris is scattered around damaged buildings at Nakama settlement in Fiji, after Cyclone Winston tore through the island nation.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The death toll from a ferocious cyclone which tore through Fiji over the weekend has risen to 18 as authorities on Monday began to get a grasp on the scale of the disaster and deploy aid to hard-hit outer islands.

Authorities were still having trouble communicating with some islands, including places like Koro Island which suffered some of the worst damage. And more than 6,000 residents across Fiji were staying in emergency shelters after their homes were broken or swamped.

Winds from Cyclone Winston, which tore through Fiji over the weekend, reached 177 miles (285 kilometers) per hour, making it the strongest storm in the Southern Hemisphere since record-keeping began, according to the Weather Underground website.

Getting emergency supplies to the group's far-flung islands and remote communities was the government's top priority said Ewan Perrin, Fiji's permanent secretary for communications. Home to 900,000 people, Fiji has more than 100 inhabited islands.

"The logistics of getting supplies and equipment to remote communities is difficult," he said. "Some have lost their jetties and it's uncertain if airstrips are able to be landed on."

Perrin said authorities on Monday were sending a vessel to Koro Island filled with medical supplies, food and water. He said crews on the boat would build temporary shelters for those people on the island whose homes had been destroyed.

Perrin said the electricity network across Fiji remained patchy, and in some cases power had been deliberately cut to prevent further damage. He said clean water was also a challenge, and people were being asked to boil their water, treat it with chemicals or drink bottled water.

Phone communications had been rapidly restored in many areas but in other areas the damage was severe and would take longer to fix, he said.

He said Fijians were taking the disaster in stride.

"The people here are fairly resilient and they're accustomed to these things happening," he said. "Most are going about their business or helping clean up. There's been a very well-coordinated disaster response and we're deploying quickly."

Perrin said most of the people who died in the cyclone were hit by flying debris or were in buildings which collapsed. A handful of people had also been hospitalized with severe injuries, he said.

Fijians were finally able to venture outside Monday after authorities lifted a curfew that had been imposed on Saturday evening. A 30-day declaration of a state of natural disaster remains in effect, giving police extraordinary powers.

"The damage has been widespread, homes have been destroyed, many low-lying areas have flooded, and many people have been left stunned and confused about what to do," said Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in a televised address to the nation.

He said that the police and military had been brought in to help with rescue operations and the general cleanup, and that government agencies were working overtime to clear roads and restore power.

"This is a time of sorrow, but it will also be a time of action," Bainimarama said. "We will stand united in the face of this disaster."

Tourism Minister Faiyaz Siddiq Koya said that all tourists in Fiji were safe and that there was no significant damage to the majority of hotels on the main island. Fiji is a popular tourist destination, known for its beach resorts and scuba diving.

Cyclone Winston hit Fiji on Saturday and moved westward overnight along the northern coast of Viti Levu. Fiji's capital, Suva, located in the southern part of the main island, was not directly in the cyclone's path and avoided the worst of its destructive power.

Mt. Carmel School's 2Q President's List and Honor Roll

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 2nd Quarter President's List & Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1st Grade:
Calvo, Michael
Castro, Christine Rosanne
Catacutan, Cedric Earl
Concepcion, Jeffrey Paul
Esguerra, Maria Loreen
Gragasin, Justin Andrei
Guerrero, Patrick
Matsumoto, Akoni Jesus
Matsumoto, Naomi Skye
Melchor, Sarah Angela
Pangelinan, Nicole Angela
Propst, Kaden Christian
Reyes, Frank Anthony
Sasamoto, Enzo Umeki
Sasamoto, Hiromi Rosa
Sasamoto, Yukiko Kiyomi
Sulyman, Shaminur
Tenorio, Jose Clarence
Tomokane, Pedro Jose
Tudela, Elle Brie

2nd Grade:
Atalig, Danika
Backe, Asa Vanessa
Battalones, Maria Corazon
Buenaflor, Oscar Bien
Camacho, Meagan Brylee
Cruzana, Joaquin Ian
Dela Santa, Heleyna Frielle
Estella, Valerie Anne
Javier, Lance Jericho
Maratita, Elise Divine
Matsumoto, Ayanna Faith
Mendoza, Mikaehla Paige
Ogo, Therese Joy
Palacios, Leighton
Pangelinan, Camron
Pangelinan, Joseph Brandon
Pangelinan, Mya
Pontiveros, Emmanuel
Santiago, Gavril Myles
Tenorio, Jessiana B.
Tizon, Quince Emanuele
Tomokane, Peige Morgan
Travilla, Riana Joy

3rd Grade:
Camacho, Irie Kane
Castro, Kenneth
Chae, Davina
Chang, Jada
Kautz, Claire Regina
Lee, Hanseo
Lee, Jaime
Lobo, Angelo
Mallari, Audrein Jennifer
Mallari, Laizza Vianca
Mariano, Nicole Erin
Nicholas, Jalen Jeremiah
Palacios, Tricia A.
Pamintuan, Manuel
Patawaran, Breana Y.
Reyes, Chelsy Anne
Sablan, Aaliyah V.
Sablan, Kiana Cecilia
Santos, Dylan
Sasamoto, Hitomi Rosa
Steele, Lyssa Rae
Taimanao, Aryana A.
Tenorio, Malina Rose
Toskas, Ari James
Travilla, Arturo Rodrigo

4th Grade:
Bocago, Ranasia
Dayrit, Jenarisa Mae
Gamab, Gwen Tiffany
Guerrero, Ruben Antonio
Pangelinan, Destiny Jade
Propst, Devin Jordan
Reyes, Vicente Jose
Sablan, Andrew
San Nicolas, Earle Gabriel
Tasi, Siana
Tolentino, Leyonne Alfred

5th Grade:
Apilado, Aira
Baldazo, Keehara
Cabrera, Kyla Monique
Galang, Raphael Christian
Green, Lynzey Valencia
Omar, Salina J.
Ortizo, Brent Matthew
Palacios, Ryona Exsalee
Panelinan, Manuel Jacinto
Sasamoto, Derek Moritaro
Sasamoto, Yurihana Rosa

6th Grade:
Ano, William Nathaniel
Diaz, Jeremiah Jerome
Guerrero, Christian Felix
Propst, Kiana Lei

7th Grade:
Avendano-Woodruff, Katherine
Bachani, Tanisha A.
Gatmaitan, Xavier
Hunter, Brandee C.
Mendoza, Mikee Mame
Sablan, Penelope
Salvador, Vince Phillip
Sato, Maaya

8th Grade:
Borja, Kalea Lou
Paul, Monita
Yamagata-Santos, Danielle Jaden

9th Grade:
Acosta, Ydylle Faye
Attao, Alyssa Marie
Batusin, Aldwin Ray
Bobadilla, Jan Emmanuel
Cho, Hyo Lim
Cunanan, Erika Gabrielle
Han, Louisa Sa
Leong, Giselle Ivy
Macaranas, Dayna Lou
Pangelinan, Rosalia Francine
Paraiso, Joanie
Ramirez, Reica J.
Sato, Karen

10th Grade:
Kim, Min Jung
Lim, Nathanael
Melchor, Jeff Matthew
Palacios, Michelle
Torres, Cassidy Victoria
Toskas, Jonelle Gwyneth
Usi, Monica Aira
Zheng, Theresa

11th Grade:
Castro, Jose Antonio
Chao, Shirley Minyi
Cushing, Arron Christopher
Deleon Guerrero Jr., Zeno
Doctor, Jaqueline
Han, Ya
Higuchi, Kai
Hunter, Brianna C
Jun, You Jin
Lee, Eric
Ortizo, Michael Roy
Santos, Joshua
Xu, Xianodie (Rachel)

12th Grade:
Amog, Quinn Ely
Diaz, Angelica Carla
Evangelista, Amalina
Iwai, Emiri Angela
Javier, Cathryn Jane
Manglona, Thomas Lee II
Pangelinan, Jonathan R.
Ryu, Sung Hun
Taimanao, Janika Therese T.

HONOR ROLL

Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1st Grade:
Cabrera, Risha
Camacho, Kesiil D.
Jung, Maya Jae
Lobo, Mikaela Jane
Torres, Jupri
Villagomez, Sage

2nd Grade:
Aldan II, Jesse John B.
Cabrera, Zion Jude
Deleon Guerrero, Nyla
Hayes, Alana
Ignacio, Lance Peter
Kapileo, Vivica Jewels
Quitugua, Damian
Rabauliman, Sophia
Tudela, Draven John

3rd Grade:
Cabrera, Margaret
Castro, Elialyn Maria
Gozon, Rafael Mykel
Lee, Ru Ma
Taisacan, Nevaeh Sky
Villegas, Kimberly

4th Grade:
Ano, Natalie Gabrielle
Bang, Leo
Barcinas, Alicia
Blanco, Elisa Ellen E.
Buensalido, Angel Lou
Chen, Jeery
Dela Cruz, L'wina Lynn
Deleon Guerrero, Ierlyma Nicole
Deleon Guerrero, Leland Isaiah
Doronila, Kyle Jay
Jung, Min Ki
Lacap, Elisha Joy
Lee, Ru Da
Mafnas, Breanna Sue
Militante, Ethan Jude
Sulyman, Shamira
Takayama, Lezandra M.
Torres, Maria
Valiente, Jhazmyn N.
Villegas, Miguel

5th Grade:
Borja, O'Hane
Dela Cruz, Kina
Diaz, Carlo Crisdeo
Hunter, Brissa C.
Irang, Clint Allen
Muna, Sienna Jade
Sablan, Aubriana Maria
Sablan, Matthew Adrian

6th Grade:
Aldave, Lynette Anne
Alvarez, Robin Kyle
Bucalig, Fiona Marielle
Chong, Kevin Daisuke
Combinido, Jewel Monique
Duenas, Monique Laura
Lacap, Hannah
Mafnas, Christopher A.
Mallari, Vaughn Andrei
Mendiola, Alleah Marie
Muna, Devon Tyler
Sablan, Vidal Jose
Schweiger, Theresa Rose
Steele, Richard Ramon
Tenorio, Mariana B.
Tenorio, Joshua Donovan
Travilla, Kaia
Villar, Jedric Nathaniel

7th Grade:
Aldan, Kadie Verlyn
Ayuyu, Maria Pilar
Colombo, Daniele
Cunanan, Nathanael Ryne
Galang, Aldraine Angelo
Kapileo, Mark Christopher
Kim, Daehun
Marcelo, Bernard
Minami, William Kazuki
Perez, Carmille Jade
Reyes, Kyana
Tomboc, Reuben Christian
Torres, Dominic
Tyquiengco, Auriana K.

8th Grade:
Bucalig, Francesca Marie
Buenaventura, Riley Anne
Chua, Jeffrey
Ham, Jim Michael
Javier, Lleyton Andre
Kim, Yu Dam
Lu, Yi
Pak, Nicole
Palacios, Alvin
Rabang, Katelyn
Reyes, Vincent John
Sanchez, Ma. Charlize

9th Grade:
Castro, Rosa Engracia
Chinen, Quincy Lenn
Irang, Maverick Deniel
Lee, Seo Yeon
Manese, Angelo Gabriel
Moran, Matt Jason
Ocampo, Justin Gerald
Pangelinan, Joanna Marie
Sizemore, Langting
Terlaje, Maria Lael G.

10th Grade:
Mafnas, Shana Marie
Villacrusis, Geuel Christian

11th Grade:
Camacho, Eligiah Marie
Camacho, Keona
Mizuno, Yuta Lee
Reyes, Karleen Rita
Santos, Myles
Sasamoto, Shannon Rae
Travilla, Jan-Nasia Jean

12th Grade:
Bang, Jieun
Deleon Guerrero, Lance
Hirayama, Risa
Hofschneider, Stephen Anton
Jo, Hyun Woo
Kim, Hyung Jin
Kim, Kiyoun
Kim, Min Gyu
Kim, Seohyeon
Lu, Wanying
Pak, Han Byeol
Santos, Alvaro, Jr.
Takahashi, Mikiya
Toves, Markel

Business

Common software would have let FBI unlock shooter's iPhone

WASHINGTON (AP)—The county government that owned the iPhone in a high-profile legal battle between Apple Inc. and the Justice Department paid for but never installed a feature that would have allowed the FBI to easily and immediately unlock the phone as part of the terrorism investigation into the shootings that killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California.

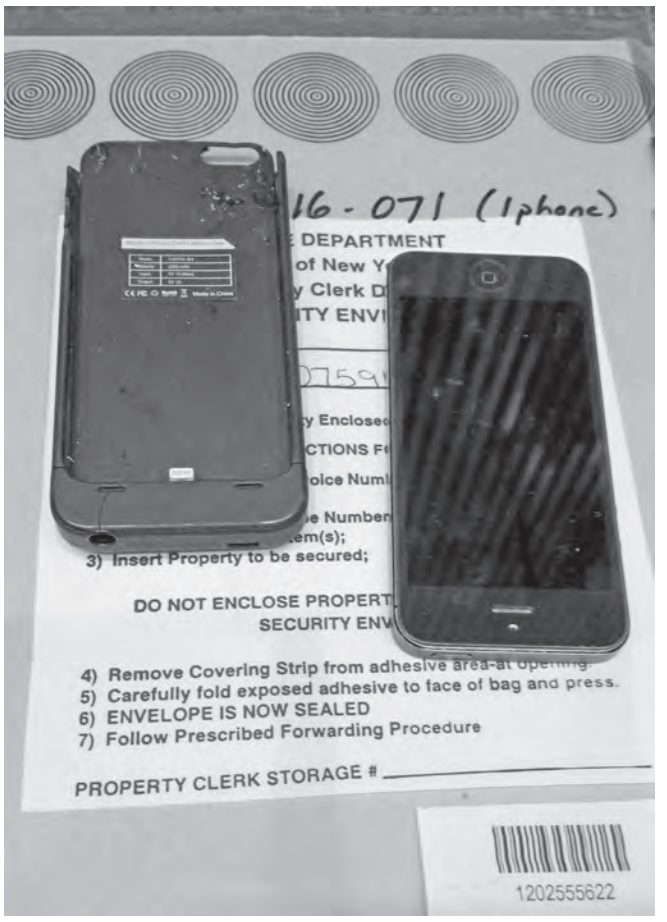
If the technology, known as mobile device management, had been installed, San Bernardino officials would have been able to remotely unlock the iPhone for the FBI without the theatrics of a court battle that is now pitting digital privacy rights against national security concerns.

The service costs $4 per month per phone.

Instead, the only person who knew the unlocking passcode for the phone is the dead gunman, Syed Farook, who worked as an inspector in the county's public health department.

The iPhone assigned to Farook also lacked a Touch ID feature, meaning the FBI cannot use the dead gunman's thumbprint to unlock it now. The FBI found the phone in a car after the shootings.

A U.S. magistrate last week ordered Apple to provide the FBI with highly specialized software that could be loaded onto the work-issued iPhone 5C used by Farook. He died with his wife in a gun battle with police after killing 14 people in December.


16 - 071 (Iphone)
DEPARTMENT
3) Insert Property to be secured;
DO NOT ENCLOSE PROPERT
SECURITY ENV
4) Remove Covering Strip from adhesive area at opening.
5) Carefully fold exposed adhesive to face of bag and press.
6) ENVELOPE IS NOW SEALED
7) Follow Prescribed Forwarding Procedure
PROPERTY CLERK STORAGE #
1202555622

AP
An Apple iPhone sits on a table during a news conference at New York City Police Headquarters, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016 in New York.

The software would help the FBI hack into the phone by bypassing a security time delay and feature that erases all data after 10 consecutive, unsuccessful attempts to guess the unlocking passcode. This would allow the FBI to use technology to rapidly and repeatedly test numbers in what's known as a brute force attack.

The FBI said it wants to determine whether Farook had used his phone to communicate with others about the attack.

Apple has said it will protest the ruling and has until Friday to intervene in court.

San Bernardino had an existing contract with a technology provider, MobileIron Inc., but did not install it on any inspectors' iPhones, county spokesman David Wert said. There is no county-wide policy on the matter and departments make their own decisions, he said.

Wert disputed the value of the remote management technology because he said Farook—or any other county employee—could have removed it manually. That would have alerted county technology employees and led them to intervene.

In many offices and classrooms, officially issued smartphones include the installed management software. It can unlock the phone, delete all information in case of loss or theft, track the device's physical location, determine which apps are installed, check battery life and push software updates. The technology is intended to make such products more suitable in corporate environments, where tighter controls are important to protect company secrets.

"This is the business case" for mobile device management, said John Dickson, a principal at Denim Group Ltd., a security consultancy. "The organization simply has no control or influence or anything over the device unless they have some MDM authority. The ability to do remote air updates, the ability to do remote wipe, the ability to control certain settings. Those are the standard kinds of things you do in mobile device management."

Dickson said "the big question now going forward, it builds the case for, is why this guy would have an essentially uncontrolled device."

This is the first time since the county issued its first Blackberry device in 2003 that law enforcement has needed access to a locked county-owned phone, Wert said. Prosecutors said in court filings that the county gave its consent to search the device. County policy said digital devices can be searched at any time and Farook signed such an agreement.

Apple executives said Friday that the company had worked hard to help federal investigators get information off the locked iPhone, suggesting they use an iCloud workaround while the phone was connected to a familiar wireless network so that it would begin automatically backing up and provide access to data. The executives spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing legal process.

Perez to head BOG Card Services

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam board of directors, management, and staff are pleased to announce that Erwin Perez has been promoted to vice president/director of Card Services.

Perez

A 25-year veteran of Citibank Hagatna, Perez was hired in 2014 as the EMV project manager. At Citibank, Perez was the Operations and Technology head as well as Asset Category manager, Cards Product manager, and Branch Operations manager.

Perez is a graduate of Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.

For additional information, please call Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gas prices drop 5 cents over past 2 weeks, to $1.77

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of gasoline has dropped 5 cents over the past two weeks, to $1.77 a gallon. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that the price is 56 cents per gallon cheaper than a year ago. Lundberg says it's less likely that gas prices will continue to slide because crude oil prices are almost unchanged from a month ago. In the Lower 48 states, the highest average price of regular gasoline was $2.40 per gallon in San Diego. The lowest was $1.42 in Tucson, Arizona. The U.S. average diesel price is $2.07 per gallon, down 6 cents from two weeks ago and 88 cents per gallon under its year-ago point.

Safety advocate asks govt to reopen Jeep fire investigation

DETROIT (AP)—An auto safety advocate is calling on the government to reopen an investigation of rear-crash fires in older Jeep SUVs after finding at least 11 more deaths since the vehicles were recalled. The deaths show that the recall repair—installing a trailer hitch to protect gas tanks in low-speed crashes—hasn't been effective, said Clarence Ditlow, head of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety. He is calling on the government to investigate, saying the Jeeps are unsafe and a remedy should be developed that saves lives. "As far as Fiat Chrysler is concerned, Jeeps can continue to crash and burn until they are all off the road," Ditlow wrote in a letter to Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx dated Thursday. It's been almost three years since Fiat Chrysler, which makes Jeeps, began recalling 1.56 million SUVs with plastic gas tanks that are mounted behind the rear axle and can rupture in a crash, spilling gasoline.

How to explain recent dismissal?

Q: I was recently asked to leave a job after my probationary period. The human resources manager emphasized that this was not a disciplinary action. She said management viewed me as dedicated and hardworking, but felt the position had not worked out as expected.

This outcome didn't surprise me, because the entire staff seemed to resent my being hired. I was given the same responsibilities as a senior employee who clearly considered me an unwelcome rival. My manager was seldom around and made no effort to clarify my duties or resolve conflicts.

When interviewers ask why I left this company, I'm not sure what to say. I know honesty is best, but I don't want to sound too negative. What do you suggest?

A: First, let's consider the statement "honesty is best." As an applicant, you should scrupulously avoid being dishonest, because that can lead to all sorts of problems. However, you must also remember that "honesty" does not mean describing your opinion of events in gory emotional detail.

Most questions actually have many different honest answers. During interviews, your objective is to provide a truthful response which will not alarm potential employers.

For example: "I found myself in a situation where there was a lot of disagreement about my role, which created considerable confusion. I left on good terms at the end of my probationary period, because everyone agreed that the position did not seem to be working out."

Talk with your former HR manager to see if the company will provide a favorable reference and describe your departure as a resignation. Since this parting sounds fairly amiable, management may have no desire to interfere with your future employment.

Q: My new manager appears to be very controlling. "Stan" recently hired me as a consultant because I have the skills he needs for a technical project. He often says "I don't want to sound like a micromanager," then proceeds to deliver a detailed critique of my work.

Stan once asked me to attend a meeting with him, but told me not to say anything. His method of questioning is much more investigative than collaborative. I need to nip this micromanagement in the bud before it gets any worse. How can I tell my boss to back off?

A: You seem to be confused about roles in this situation. If you are a consultant, then Stan is not your boss, he's your client. Successful consultants must be able to work with a variety of client personalities, even when they are very frustrating.

While some clients are easygoing and hands-off, others are highly directive and engaged. Stan obviously falls into the latter category, so instead of resenting his involvement, you must adjust to his particular style.

If Stan critiques your work, try to understand his preferences. When he asks "investigative" questions, answer calmly and completely. If he prefers to be the speaker in meetings, abide by his wishes. Ultimately, Stan's opinion of this relationship may determine whether you are invited back for future projects, so try to keep that in mind.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Nation

Gunman kills 6 in shootings at car dealership, restaurant

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP)—A gunman who seemed to choose his victims at random opened fire outside an apartment complex, a car dealership and a restaurant in Michigan, killing six people in a rampage that lasted nearly seven hours, police said.

Authorities identified the shooter as Jason Dalton, a 45-year-old Uber driver and former insurance adjuster who police said had no criminal record. They could not say what motivated him to target victims with no apparent connection to him or to each other in the Saturday night shootings.

"How do you go and tell the families of these victims that they weren't targeted for any reason other than they were there to be a target?" Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting said Sunday at a news conference.

Dalton, who was arrested in Kalamazoo following a massive manhunt, was expected to be arraigned Monday on murder charges.

Kalamazoo County Undersheriff Paul Matyas described a terrifying series of attacks that began about 6 p.m. Saturday outside the Meadows apartment complex on the eastern edge of Kalamazoo County, where a woman was shot multiple times. She was expected to survive.

A little more than four hours later and 15 miles away, a father and his 17-year-old son were fatally shot while looking at cars at the dealership.

Fifteen minutes after that, five people were gunned down in the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel restaurant, Matyas said. Four of them died.

"These are random murders," Matyas said.

Dalton was arrested without incident about 12:40 a.m. Sunday after a deputy spotted his vehicle driving through downtown Kalamazoo after leaving a bar parking lot, authorities said.

Matyas declined to disclose anything found in the vehicle except for a semi-automatic handgun.

By midday, authorities were investigating a Facebook post that indicated the suspect was driving for Uber during the manhunt and had taken at least one fare, Getting said.

A spokeswoman for Uber confirmed that Dalton had driven for the company in the past, but she declined to say whether he was driving Saturday night.

Uber prohibits both passengers and drivers from possessing guns of any kind in a vehicle. Anyone found to be in violation of the policy may be prohibited from using or driving for the service.

A man who knows Dalton said he was a married father of two who never showed any signs of violence.

Gary Pardo Jr., whose parents live across the street from Dalton in Kalamazoo Township, described him as a family man who seemed fixated on cars and often worked on them.

"He would go a month without mowing his lawn but was very meticulous with his cars," Pardo said, explaining that Dalton, at times, owned a Chevrolet Camaro and two Hummer SUVs.

Progressive Insurance confirmed that he once worked for the company before leaving in 2011.

AP

A makeshift memorial is seen near where people were shot near car dealership Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016, in Kalamazoo, Mich.

A decade before Flint's lead scare, there was Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Lisa Solano-Sanchez looks at her 16-year-old son and sees a bright, healthy, musically gifted teenager. A relief, considering she had no idea how he would turn out when she discovered he was poisoned by lead as a toddler.

Still, she scrutinizes her son's behavior and can't help but wonder if he's been held back from his full potential.

"Not knowing drives me crazy," she said.

A decade before Flint, Michigan, there was Rhode Island, a tiny state that took a daring plunge by suing the paint industry to seek money for cleaning up a danger lurking on walls and windowsills in up to 80 percent of its homes. The landmark lawsuit reverberates today not only in Flint, but also in California, where 10 cities and counties are fighting to hold onto a $1.1 billion victory over the same industry.

Though the lawsuit remains influential, Rhode Island has little to show for its short-lived triumph on Feb. 22, 2006. Two years later, the state's highest court unanimously overturned the verdict, saying the paint industry couldn't be held responsible.

"My heart is still broken at the Supreme Court's decision that I still today cannot understand or justify," said Democratic U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, the former Rhode Island attorney general who had initiated the case.

Studies have tied lead poisoning to permanent damage to children's brains and conditions including lowered intelligence, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Symptoms can take years to manifest and be hard to confirm.

Leaded paint, easily ingested by children whose fingers touch contaminated dust or who pick up sweet-tasting flakes that end up in their mouth, was a known danger and outlawed in the late 1970s. Rhode Island was hardly the only place with potentially exposed children, but in a compact and old state with an elderly housing stock, the threat was especially acute.

Sorry, no kangaroos: Service-animal impostors face crackdown

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—People who falsely pass off their pets as service animals—think of the woman in Wisconsin last year who claimed the right bring her kangaroo into McDonald's—have frustrated people with legitimate needs to such an extent that legislators in several states are considering laws to restore the animals' credibility.

Legislatures in Maine, Virginia, Arizona, Hawaii, New York, and Puerto Rico are considering bills that would either establish such a program or penalize people who fraudulently claim to have service dogs.

In Maine, a task force this month issued a report that says well-meaning federal laws designed to protect people with disabilities have instead opened the door to fraud.

"The abuse and confusion are harming everybody," said Barbara Archer Hirsch, an attorney with the Maine Human Rights Commission and member of the task force. "It's harming the landlords, and it's harming the individuals who need their animals."

Here's the dilemma: Under federal law, no papers are required for service dogs in public places. If people want to sneak their pampered Chihuahua into a restaurant, they can simply lie and say it's a service dog trained to help them with their disability.

Sean McDonough, 51, has a brain injury from a car accident and said he's noticed people are increasingly skeptical that his 5-year-old goldendoodle, Bruno, is a service dog. Bruno is trained to distract McDonough from stress triggers by pressing against him.

Security officers at a courthouse tried to block Bruno at the door recently because of their encounter with a fraudulent service dog, said McDonough, of Lyman, Maine.

"The court people treated me badly because of what other people had done," he said.

Impostors pose a problem for businesses and landlords because they fear legal action if they clamp down, said Donna Hodges, who owns 100 apartment units in central Maine. She recalled a prospective tenant who claimed his rambunctious pit bull was a service dog.

The dog was leaning out a car window and barking at her while its owner waved a framed, official-looking certificate identifying the dog as a service animal. She knew the certificate was a fake, she said, because federal law stipulates that service dogs don't need documentation.

Rubio, Cruz jostle to claim 'alternative-to-Trump' vote

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP)—Republicans Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz battled to emerge as the true anti-Trump on Sunday as the billionaire businessman took an ever-so-brief break from his trademark braggadocio to say his drive for the GOP nomination isn't unstoppable—yet.

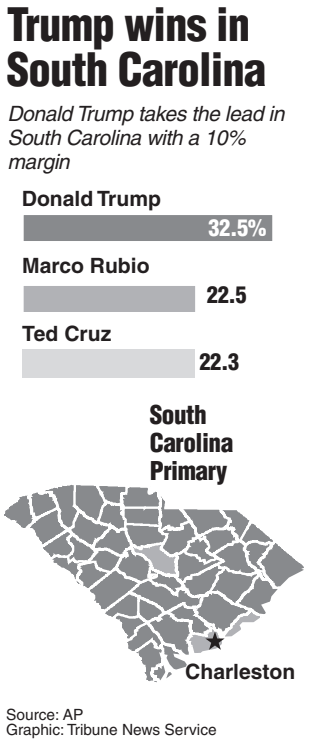
Fresh off a commanding victory in South Carolina, Donald Trump declined to say the nomination was his to lose. But he quickly went on to declare, "I'm really on my way." Soon enough, in a television interview, he was toting up electoral math all the way through Election Day and concluding, "I'm going to win."

The candidates' diverging flight plans demonstrated how the campaign spreads out and speeds up now. Nevada's GOP caucuses are Tuesday, and then a dozen states vote in the March 1 Super Tuesday bonanza.

Trump was in Georgia exulting over his latest victory, Cruz headed for Nevada, and Rubio embarked on a Tennessee-Arkansas-Nevada trifecta.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton savored her weekend win in the Nevada caucuses as Bernie Sanders acknowledged that while his insurgent campaign has made strides, "at the end of the day ... you need delegates." He looked past Saturday's Democratic primary in South Carolina to list Colorado, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Oklahoma as places where he has a "good shot" to do well.

Rubio and Cruz used the Sunday morning news shows to spin rosy-road-forward scenarios after complete but unofficial returns in South Carolina put Trump way up top, with Rubio squeaking past Cruz for second. But with roughly 70 percent of Republicans in national polls declining to back Trump, Cruz and Rubio tried to cast themselves as the one candidate around whom what Rubio calls the "alternative-to-Donald-Trump vote" can coalesce.



Rubio also took an aggressive run at Trump, faulting him for a lack of specifics on policy.

"If you're running for president of the United States, you can't just tell people you're going to make America great again," he said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

At a later rally in Franklin, Tennessee, a Nashville suburb, Rubio took note of the smaller GOP field after Jeb Bush's departure from the race, and celebrated his biggest crowd of the campaign, estimated at more than 3,000 people. Rubio avoided criticizing his GOP rivals, instead highlighting his efforts to help middle-class families.

Asia

Navy commander: South China Sea not a US-versus-China battle

SYDNEY (AP)—The commander of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said Monday that he is wary of the situation in the South China Sea being painted as a battle between the United States and China, but added the presence of a Chinese missile system on a disputed island will not stop the U.S. military from flying over the region.

U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin's comments come a week after it was revealed that Beijing had deployed surface-to-air missiles on an island in the fiercely contested region. The U.S. said the presence of missiles provided increasing evidence of militarization of the area by China.

China subsequently accused the U.S. of militarizing the region, saying patrols by U.S. Navy vessels and military aircraft had escalated tensions and raised concerns about stability in the area.

Last month, a U.S. warship deliberately sailed near one of the Beijing-controlled islands in the Paracel chain in a so-called freedom of navigation exercise. China, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping claims in the Paracels.

Aucoin, whose Japan-based fleet covers a region from India to the international dateline in the Pacific Ocean, said the U.S. is not making such maneuvers to single out any country, and wants all nations that are reclaiming land to stop.

"I wish it wasn't portrayed as U.S. versus China," Aucoin told reporters in Sydney, one of his stops on a visit to Australia to meet with defense officials. "This shouldn't seem provocative. What we're trying to ensure is that all countries, no matter size or strength, can pursue their interests based on the law of the sea and not have that endangered by some of these actions."

Last week, U.S. and Taiwanese officials confirmed commercial satellite images showed anti-aircraft missiles had been placed on Woody Island in the Paracel chain. China has not denied the appearance of the missiles, but says it is entitled to defend its territory.

Deadly north India protests lead to New Delhi water shortage

NEW DELHI (AP)—Authorities in India's capital have closed schools and taken other measures to combat water supply problems caused by violent protests in a neighboring state that have left at least 12 people dead.

Thousands of members of an underprivileged community who are protesting to demand government benefits have damaged equipment that brings water from the Munak canal in Haryana state to New Delhi, depleting the capital's water supply. New Delhi, a city of more than 16 million people, gets about 60 percent of its water from Haryana state.

Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi's chief minister, announced Sunday that schools in the capital would be closed Monday due to the water shortage. He also ordered the rationing of water to people's homes.

At least 12 people have been killed by Indian security forces firing on protesters since the weeklong protests turned violent on Friday, state Home Secretary P. K. Das told reporters Sunday. Another 150 protesters have been injured in clashes in various parts of the state.

Two more deaths were reported on Sunday in the Sonipat and Hissar districts of the state, raising the death toll to 12, Das said. Ten people were killed on Friday and Saturday.

However, a breakthrough appeared to be in sight as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government set up a federal committee to examine the protesters' demands.

The Press Trust of India news agency said the protesters started lifting the highway blockades in some areas later Sunday after the government's announcement. There was no formal announcement yet by the protesters on the issue.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH elections body urged to stop Pacquiao fight

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine senatorial candidate has petitioned the elections commission to stop boxing star and fellow candidate Manny Pacquiao's fight against Timothy Bradley on April 9, saying the extensive media exposure would give Pacquiao an unfair advantage and flout the fair elections law. Former House Rep. Walden Bello filed the petition Monday. He says allowing Pacquiao's fight during the campaign period for the May 9 elections would violate the law giving candidates equal access to media time and space, as well as the ban on radio or television programs that favor a candidate. The Bible-quoting Pacquiao has been embroiled in controversy for saying recently that people in same-sex relations are "worse than animals." Nike has severed endorsement ties with him over his comments.

Hindu priest killed, 2 devotees injured in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI (AP)—A Hindu priest in Muslim-majority Bangladesh was hacked to death and two devotees injured in an attack Sunday on a temple in the country's north. Police said Jogeshwar Roy, 50, was attacked as he came out after people threw stones at the temple in the Deviganj area of Panchgarh district, on the border with India. Quoting local people and witnesses, police officer Kafil Uddin said the assailants on a motorbike attacked the priest with a sharp weapon, fired guns and exploded crude bombs, injuring two devotees who tried to help him. The attackers fled. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for killing the Hindu priest in a communique posted by the IS-linked Amaq News Agency on Twitter, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors online jihadi activity. The claim could not be independently verified.

Child sex abuse victims to hear cardinal's testimony in Rome

BALLARAT, Australia (AP)—Victims of clergy abuse won permission on Monday to be present next week when Pope Francis's finance minister testifies from Rome to an Australian inquiry into child sex offenses within the Roman Catholic Church. Child abuse victims angry that Cardinal George Pell will not return to Australia to testify at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse had requested that they be allowed to hear in person Pell's testimony by video conference, the inquiry's chairman Justice Peter McClellan said. "The commission considers that to be a reasonable request," McClellan said.

World

Venezuela takes on Zika amid shortages, information blackout

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—This is what the Zika outbreak looks like in Venezuela, a country whose medical system has teetered for months on the brink of collapse:

There's a lack of bug spray to prevent mosquito bites, scant contraceptives to avert pregnancies, little medicine to treat Zika-linked maladies. There has been no effective public health campaign to inform the public about the disease—and nobody really knows how many infections there have been.

AP

In this Feb. 12, 2016 photo, a municipal worker fumigates for the Aedes aegypti mosquito that transmits the Zika virus, in the Petare neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela.

"It's just terrible what we are living," said Carla Natera, a 50-year-old local government worker who contracted Zika and spent three days searching pharmacies for an ointment to calm the angry rash that broke out on her face and body.

William Barrientos, a doctor and opposition lawmaker, says the socialist government is not equipped to confront a health crisis in a country where food and medicine shortages are acute, the economy is a shambles and a political crisis deepens by the day.

"There is no education and information campaign among the population here," and no tracking of the mosquitoes that carry the virus, he said.

The scale of what Venezuela is going through is unclear. Officials alerted the World Health Organization to the first case of Zika here in November but did not release statistics or reach out to the public until two months later.

The Health Ministry is now reporting more than 5,000 suspected Zika cases and three related deaths.

IS bombings rock Syria as world powers seek truce

BEIRUT (AP)—Bombings claimed by the Islamic State group in the Syrian cities of Damascus and Homs killed nearly 130 people on Sunday, highlighting the threat posed by the extremists as the country's warring factions fight for the northern city of Aleppo and world powers chase an elusive cease-fire.

The blasts came as Secretary of State John Kerry said that a "provisional agreement" has been reached on a cessation of hostilities that could begin in the next few days. But he acknowledged that it's not finalized and all parties might not automatically comply.

A series of blasts ripped through the Sayyida Zeinab suburb of Damascus, killing at least 83 people and wounding more than 170, the official SANA news agency said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on local Syrian activists, said the blasts killed 62. SANA said the bombs went off near schools during the afternoon rush hour.

The neighborhood is home to one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines, which his heavily guarded by Lebanon's Hezbollah movement and other Shiite militiamen from Iraq and elsewhere. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said the blasts were caused by a car bomb and two suicide bombers.

The bombings in the central city of Homs killed at least 46 people and wounded dozens, according to Syria's Foreign Ministry. The Observatory said 57 people, including 11 women, were killed by two car bombs set off in a mostly Alawite neighborhood. Syrian President Bashar Assad hails from the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

Greece: Macedonia has closed its borders to Afghan migrants

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—Macedonia closed its border to Afghan migrants early Sunday, Greek police said, slowing the admission of refugees to a trickle and leaving a growing bottleneck of people stuck at their shared border.

A Macedonian police spokeswoman denied there was any new prohibition regarding Afghans, blaming the problem on Serbia, the next nation along the Balkans migration route into Western Europe.

By early afternoon, about 1,000 migrants were waiting at the Greek border camp in Idomeni—and at a gas station only 17 kilometers (11 miles) away, 80 buses with 4,000 more migrants were waiting to take them to the border.

Greek police said Macedonia refused to let Afghans through because Serbia made the same decision and officials feared the migrants would get stuck in Macedonia.

"The authorities of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia informed us that, beginning at dawn Sunday, they no longer accept Afghan refugees because the same problem exists at their border with Serbia," Petros Tanos, spokesman for Greek police's Central Macedonia division, told The Associated Press.

Despite the reports, about 500 migrants of all nationalities made the trek on foot from the gas station to the border Sunday.

"I can no longer wait," said 17-year-old Ali Nowroz, one of the trekkers from the Afghan city of Jaghori Zeba. "We have spent three nights in the cold, we are hungry. They told me that the borders have been closed to us. However, when I started from Afghanistan I knew borders were open for us. I am going to the Idomeni border crossing to find out and ask why they have closed it."

Since dawn Sunday, only 150 refugees from Iraq and Syria were allowed into Macedonia, on top of 310 allowed in Saturday.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

New face, added technology big news for compact 2016 Sentra

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MCT

The new 2016 Nissan Sentra exterior redesign brings its appearance closer in look and feel to its more upscale showroom siblings.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base price: $16,780-$22,170
- Engine: 1.8-liter four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 130
- Torque: 128 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 29/38 mpg (Xtronic model)
- Wheelbase: 106.3 inches
- Length: 182.1 inches
- Curb weight: 2,848-2,943 pounds
- Cargo capacity: 15.1 cubic feet

It's been 34 years since the Nissan Sentra first appeared in the U.S. market, and Nissan has sold more than 4 million of them.

But odds are you've never lusted after one, despite Nissan's attempt at pedaling a sporty SE-R variant for more than a decade.

Perhaps it's the model's name. For most of its life, it has been a rebadged Nissan Sunny, a name that is far more memorable and emotive than Sentra. But since its redesign in 2013, the Sentra's been a rebadged version of the Nissan Sylphy, a name so odd that perhaps Sentra is a better choice.

Names aside, for the past several years, the Sentra has no longer had to fill the role of entry-level beater that was once its raison detre, and recent updates reflect its role as a pint-size Altima. Sold in S, SV, SR and SL models for 2016, the Sentra receives a facelift similar to the Altima's, sharing its "energetic flow" design language, including its V-motion grille and boomerang headlamps. It clearly looks like a Nissan and it's not nearly as outlandish as the Maxima. The Sentra's more conservative look is typical in this segment, which explains why the car's backside is so dreary, it's almost sleep-inducing.

The nip and tuck continues inside, as designers restyled the center console and instrument panel. SV, SR and SL models also get a five-inch information display on the instrument cluster. There are also new seat fabrics and a revised steering wheel that draws its inspiration from the 370Z.

Not that you'd mistake this car's performance for a Z. Then again, that's not its mission.

But the Sentra's demeanor is noticeably improved for 2016 thanks to a number of enhancements. Engineers have updated the steering assist, and the result is a more linear response than the old model. Similarly, a number of suspension components have been replaced or upgraded, which translates into a more refined ride and better bump absorption. Aiding this is the quieter cabin and a reduction in road noise.

Acceleration is sufficient, and the continuously variable automatic transmission seems to be one of the better units on the market, although it's still not as enjoyable as a traditional automatic transmission or, better yet, a dual clutch automatic.

The new Sentra is offered with the latest suite of driver assistance technology, including forward emergency braking, intelligent cruise control, blind spot warning and rear cross traffic alert. In addition, a new technology package, available on SR and SL models, includes intelligent cruise control and forward emergency braking.

So you don't have to buy an Altima or Maxima to get the latest in technology.

The same is true of the infotainment systems, which includes Nissan Connect Services. Powered by SiriusXM, this service offers automatic collision notification and safety vehicle tracking with roadside assistance. There's also streaming audio via Bluetooth, hands-free text messaging assistant and smartphone integration for iPhone and Android phones.

The best part is that this technology is available on the Sentra SV for less than $20,000. That's impressive and shows that you don't have to spend a fortune to get the same perks as spendier rides.

And there a number of other optional interior upgrades, including dual-zone climate control, a Bose audio system with eight speakers, keyless entry with push button ignition, leather trim, moonroof and a rear view monitor.

But even if you don't gild the lily, the interior still offers a useful 111 cubic feet of space. And check out the back seat; there's a surprising amount of rear legroom. The bountiful acreage continues in the trunk, where there's 15.1 cubic feet of space.

The Sentra's comfort and utility are impressive, its technology is thoroughly up-to-date, and its style means you'll be showing up in Nissan's newest haute couture.

So even if the Sentra's name seems a little mundane, what it delivers is anything but.

My advice?

Buy one—then you can call it yours.

ABOUT THE WRITER

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Motoring Q&A: All you ever wanted to know about air

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: In regard to a few of your recent columns, the air that you are breathing in "the real world" is pretty much the same as the air that professor John MacBain (who contested your writing on nitrogen-filled tires) is breathing in academia. The water in the air is already a vapor. It will not "vaporize" more when heated. I know the racers use nitrogen, and I'd like you to expand on your previous answer to help me understand why.

A: Will do. The moisture inside a tire is liquid, not a vapor, initially. As air is compressed, it heats up. As it cools, moisture in the air condenses into liquid. Have you ever bled the air out of a tire or air compressor? The amount of water blown out with the compressed air is amazing. That's why you never adjust air pressure in subfreezing temperatures—the tire valve can freeze open in an instant, allowing the tire to fully deflate right in front of your eyes. In fact, most professional shops, particularly auto body and paint shops, have large in-line dryers installed to trap this moisture and prevent it from entering their air tools and paint guns.

From David W. Drummond, Ph.D.: "The biggest culprit in tire pressure changes is water vapor because it changes volume more—and condenses—in the normal range of tire pressures. In fact, Honda tells its dealers to use dry air instead of nitrogen (perhaps to save money). Two other components of air have a disproportionate effect on tire pressure. Carbon dioxide changes volume more with temperature than nitrogen or oxygen, and helium diffuses through the tire because of its small molecular size. In addition, ordinary air compressors are likely to introduce oil vapor and additional carbon dioxide to compressed air. Nitrogen and oxygen make up 99 percent of dry air. Pure nitrogen is best in racing applications because it is inert, while oxygen might attack the inside of the tire at high temperatures. Also, nitrogen is cheap because it is a byproduct of producing oxygen for medical use. Both nitrogen and oxygen change volume in direct proportion to temperature in the tire temperature range (in science-speak they behave like "ideal gases") while water vapor, carbon dioxide and oil vapor show much greater volume changes with temperature. Molecular size is not an issue except for helium. Size increases with molecular weight. Here are the approximate molecular weights as they exist in air: Helium-4, Nitrogen (N2)-28, Oxygen (O2)-32, Water (H2O)-18, Carbon dioxide (CO2)-44. My information comes from Chemistry 101 and air compressor information from friends who are scuba divers."

From Todd Fukushi: "I'm a chemist at 3M. I have been working on rubber materials more than 20 years and permeation resistance of rubber materials is one of our focuses. I totally support your reply to John. He said "nitrogen obeys the universal gas law as oxygen, hydrogen and every other gas known to man." It is true, if it is treated as ideal gas. However, for example, gas permeation is different among gases. John can't believe, probably, but nitrogen and oxygen gas permeation through rubbers are very different.

"Typical automotive tire uses butyl rubber or halogen butyl rubber as inside layer of the tire because butyl rubber has lower gas permeation than natural rubber or other typical rubbers. Permeability coefficients (cm3mm/cm2sec-cmHg x 10-10) of oxygen and nitrogen for butyl rubber are 10 and 2.5 respectively, based on literature. If it is hydrogen, the coefficient goes up to 55. Even 20 percent of oxygen in the air would have huge impact on permeation. So regarding permeation what kind of gas is the matter. John ignores the matter. Also since nitrogen is inert gas, we don't have to think about oxidation effect of materials.

"Nitrogen-filled tire has been used for not only racing field, but also aircraft industry. You can imagine that aircraft need to maintain tire pressure precisely. So nitrogen-filled tire is proven technology in the industries."

Whoever thought discussing air could be so interesting!

ABOUT THE WRITER

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

Cosby's wife slated to give deposition in defamation case

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Bill Cosby's wife is slated to answer questions under oath in a defamation lawsuit brought against her husband by seven women who claim the comedian sexually assaulted them decades ago.

Camille Cosby is scheduled to be questioned by a lawyer for the women Monday at the Springfield Marriott. It is believed to be the first deposition Camille Cosby has given since dozens of women went public with allegations of sexual misconduct against her husband.

Lawyers for the Cosbys have argued that she does not have any information on the accuracy of the women's claims and that her conversations with her husband are confidential under the Massachusetts marital disqualification rule. They attempted to quash the deposition.

A judge had ruled Friday that Camille Cosby's deposition must proceed. However, defense lawyers filed an emergency motion late Saturday requesting it be delayed, saying the 71-year-old "has had no involvement with the facts or allegations underlying this case." They argued her public testimony would create "an unnecessary media circus and personal security threat that serves no purpose other than to harass and embarrass her."

In a ruling late Sunday, a judge said Monday's deposition can take place.

The Cosbys have a home in Shelburne Falls, about an hour's drive to Springfield, where the lawsuit was filed. The couple has been married for 52 years.

A lawyer for the women argued that because Camille Cosby has been the TV star's wife and business manager, she could have useful information.

The plaintiffs in the Massachusetts defamation case are among about 50 who have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct.

In December, Cosby, 78, was charged in Pennsylvania with drugging and sexually assaulting a former Temple University employee at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Cosby has pleaded not guilty. Earlier this month, a judge denied a motion by Cosby's lawyers to dismiss the charges. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for March 8.

This Oct. 26, 2009 file photo, comedian Bill Cosby, left, and his wife Camille appear at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts before Bill Cosby received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in Washington. AP

Cosby's lawyers have said in court papers that the deposition is "nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to pressure (the) defendant in the face of subjecting his wife to the shame and embarrassment of responding to questions about his alleged infidelities and sexual misconduct."

Migrant island documentary "Fire at Sea" wins at Berlin fest

BERLIN (AP)—"Fire at Sea," a documentary about the Italian island of Lampedusa—many migrants' first destination on risky journeys toward safety and a better life in Europe—won the Golden Bear for best film at the Berlin International Film Festival on Saturday.

A jury headed by Meryl Streep chose director Gianfranco Rosi's movie from a field of 18 contenders at the first of the year's major European film festivals.

In "a year of thrillingly diverse films, the jury was swept away by the compassionate outrage of one in particular," Streep said.

"It's a daring hybrid of captured footage and deliberate storytelling that allows us to consider what documentary can do," she said. "It demands its place in front of our eyes, compels our engagement and action. It is urgent, imaginative and necessary filmmaking."

Rosi contrasts the native islanders' everyday life, particularly that of a 12-year-old boy,with the arrival of the many men, women and children making the dangerous trip from Africa across the Mediterranean Sea on decrepit smugglers' boats.

Many migrants drown on the perilous passage to Europe, their bodies often pulled out of the waters around Lampedusa, a small island located between Sicily and Libya.

"At this moment, my deeper thought goes to all the people that (do) not arrive at Lampedusa on these journeys of hope," Rosi said. "And I want to dedicate this award to the people of Lampedusa, who are always extremely open to accept people arriving there over all these years."

Gianfranco Rosi, director of 'Fuocomare', left smiles at actress and jury judge Meryl Streep as he receives a Golden Bear for Best Film, during the award ceremony at the 2016 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016. AP

"It's not acceptable that people die crossing the sea to escape from tragedies," he said.

Danis Tanovic's "Death in Sarajevo," set at a hotel in the Bosnian capital as it prepares to host VIPs on the 100th anniversary of the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian crown prince that helped ignite World War I, won the festival's grand jury prize, which comes with a Silver Bear statuette.

Mia Hansen-Loeve of France was named best director for "Things to Come," a drama starring Isabelle Huppert as a woman in her 50s reassessing her life.

The best actor prize went to Majd Mastoura for his role as a young Tunisian discovering love in a society in upheaval in director Mohamed Ben Attia's feature film debut "Hedi."

Trine Dyrholm was honored as best actress for her part in Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's "The Commune" as a television newsreader shaking up her and her husband's life by inviting their friends to live with them.

The festival's honor for a film that opens new perspectives went to Filipino director Lav Diaz's eight-hour black-and-white historical drama "A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery."

The best script prize went to Tomasz Wasilewski for "United States of Love," which he also directed, a movie portraying four women in provincial Poland in the early 1990s following the end of communist rule.

Cameraman Mark Lee Ping-Bing took took the award for an outstanding artistic contribution for his work in Chinese director Yang Chao's "Crosscurrent."

Ukraine picks Crimean Tatar for Eurovision

MOSCOW (AP)—Ukrainians have chosen a Crimean Tatar singer and her song about the mass deportation of Tatars under Josef Stalin as the country's entry for this year's Eurovision song contest.

Susana Jamaladinova, who performs under the stage name Jamala, was chosen Sunday night by the combined votes of a three-person jury and some 380,000 votes from viewers watching the televised final round.

Her song "1944" refers to the year in which Stalin uprooted Tatars from their homeland and shipped them in badly overcrowded trains to Central Asia; thousands died during the journey or starved to death on the barren steppes after they arrived. They were not allowed to return to Crimea until the 1980s; Jamaladinova was born in Kyrgyzstan.

The song is a peculiar combination of a mid-tempo pop confection and anguished lyrics. "When strangers are coming, they come to your house, they kill you all and say 'We're not guilty'," the song begins.

"That terrible year changed forever the life of one fragile woman, my great-grandmother Nazylkhan. Her life was never the same," Jamaladinova told The Associated Press before the Sunday broadcast.

In this photo taken Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016, Ukrainian singer Susana Jamaladinova, known as Jamala, smiles at a rehearsal for the final of Ukraine's national selection for the Eurovision song contest, in Kiev, Ukraine. AP

The song lyrics do not touch on Russia's annexation of Crimea two years ago, but entering the singer in the hugely popular song contest could raise the issue by implication. Crimean Tatars, who are a Turkic and mostly Muslim ethnic group, say oppression against them has increased since Russia annexed the peninsula.

"There is no mention there about occupation or other outrages that the occupants are doing in our motherland; nevertheless it touches on the issue of indigenous people who have undergone horrible iniquities," said Mustafa Jamilev, leader of the Crimean Tatars.

Eurovision rules prohibit songs with lyrics seen as having political content. In 2009, less than a year after Georgia and Russia fought a brief war, the competition disallowed Georgia's proposed entrant because the group's song lampooned Russian President Vladimir Putin. Ukraine's 2005 entrant Green Jolly was told to rework the lyrics of its song "Razom Nas Bahato," which was an anthem of the previous year's Orange Revolution protests.

The Eurovision final round with competitors from around the continent takes place in May in Stockholm.

'Deadpool' dominates again with $55 million in 2nd week

NEW YORK (AP)—Marvel's R-rated antihero smash "Deadpool" continued to dominate movie theaters over the weekend, earning an estimated $55 million and trouncing a trio of newcomers.

After pulling in a massive $152.2 million in its President's Day weekend four-day debut, the comic book adaptation from 20th Century Fox starring Ryan Reynolds as a foul-mouthed mercenary again topped the North American box office. Having already grossed $235.4 million domestically, "Deadpool"—made for just $58 million—is poised to become one of the most successful R-rated movies ever.

Globally, the film—now certain to spawn a franchise of its own—has made $491.1 million thus far.

Among new releases, the faith-based drama "Risen" debuted with $11.8 million. The film, in which Joseph Fiennes plays a Roman soldier investigating the death and resurrection of Jesus, was made for about $20 million by Sony's Affirm label, which targets evangelical Christian moviegoers.

AP

This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Ryan Reyonlds, left, and Morena Baccarin in a scene from the film, "Deadpool."

A24's critically acclaimed Puritan thriller "The Witch" opened with $8.7 million, marking the biggest opening of the indie label behind the Oscar-nominated drama "Room." A24 celebrated Robert Eggers' directorial debut—an austere 1600s horror film, rigorously authentic to the period—as not only the company's biggest weekend in its three-year history, but one that put "The Witch" on course to be "the most successful film of all time with a goat in a starring role."

It may have been too art house for some horror fans, though, as "The Witch" received a poor C-minus CinemaScore from audiences.

The Jesse Owens biopic from Focus Features, "Race," struggled to find its footing with $7.3 million. Directed by Stephen Hopkins, "Race" stars Stephan James as the Olympic sprinter.

Edging out the three debuts was Fox's "Kung Fu Panda 3," which made $12.5 million in its fourth weekend. The animated sequel, which has made $117.1 million in total, will lose its near-exclusive window of family moviegoing next weekend when Disney's "Zootopia" opens. That film has already begun its overseas rollout, where it made $31.2 million from 22 territories over the weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Deadpool," $55 million ($85 million international.)
2. "Kung Fu Panda 3," $12.5 million ($7.2 million international).
3. "Risen," $11.8 million.
4. "The Witch," $8.7 million.
5. "How To Be Single," $8.2 million ($10.9 million international).
6. "Race," $7.3 million.
7. "Zoolander 2," $5.5 million ($4.8 million international).
8. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," $3.8 million ($2.6 million international).
9. "The Revenant," $3.8 million ($8.6 million international).
10. "Hail, Caesar!" $2.6 million ($5.8 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Deadpool," $85 million.
2. "The Mermaid," $56 million.
3. "Zootopia," $31.2 million.
4. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword of Destiny," $21 million.
5. "The Monkey King 2," $13 million.
6. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip," $11.7 million.
7. "How to Be Single," $10.9 million.
8. "From Vegas to Macau III," $9.5 million.
9. "The Revenant," $8.6 million.
10. "Kung Fu Panda 3," $7.2 million.

NBC picks some key Broadway creators for its 'Hairspray'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC has tapped some deep Broadway talent for its live production of the stage musical "Hairspray."

Kenny Leon, who won a Tony for the recent revival of "A Raisin in the Sun," will direct the show from composer Marc Shaiman and his co-lyricist, Scott Wittman.

Jerry Mitchell, who won Tonys for choreographing "La Cage aux Folles" and "Kinky Boots," will choreograph. And Harvey Fierstein, who won a Tony playing "Hairspray" on Broadway, will write the teleplay.

The musical adaptation of John Waters' 1988 cult film will air Dec. 7.

NBC has made something of a cottage industry with live musicals, including "The Sound of Music," ''Peter Pan" and "The Wiz." Fox jumped in with its recent "Grease: Live!" and ABC plans a TV movie of the big-screen film "Dirty Dancing."

Rep says Taylor Swift donates $259k to beleaguered Kesha

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift is giving some financial assistance to fellow pop star Kesha as she battles to get out of a contract with Dr. Luke, whom she has accused of sexually assaulting her.

A representative for Swift confirmed on Sunday night that Swift had donated $250,000 to Kesha in what she called a "show of support" to help her in her legal battle with Dr. Luke, the megahit producer. On Friday, Kesha sobbed in court as a judge denied her bid to get out of her contract with Dr. Luke, who has worked with artists ranging from Britney Spears to Katy Perry to Nicki Minaj. Dr. Luke has denied Kesha's allegations, accusing the "Tik Tok" singer of fabricating the charges to get out of the contract.

While the court decision is not the final judgment in the case, the decision has led to an outpouring of support for Kesha on social media from other celebrities, including Kelly Clarkson, who once worked with Dr. Luke.

A rep for Kesha did not immediately return a message seeking comment on Swift's donation.

AP

Pop star Kesha leaves Supreme court in New York, Friday, Feb. 19, 2016.

Ever-present doubt prevents man from fully enjoying life

DEAR ABBY: No matter what I do, I am never satisfied. I have a great wife and two great kids, and yet I always feel like I could have done better with my life. I go to work and no matter how hard I work, I feel like I never get recognition for it. When I go out with friends, we have a great time, but I never feel like I am really part of the group. I feel like the outcast who gets invited just so they won't feel bad.

I don't know why I feel this way. I do suffer from depression and have spoken to a specialist. People often tell me that I spread myself too thin and never relax enough to enjoy my success. But how can I relax when I always feel unsatisfied with my efforts?

JUST NOT SATISFIED

DEAR NOT SATISFIED: A way to do that would be to start by examining why you are so hard on yourself. Whether it was caused by parents who didn't give you the validation you needed while growing up or a lack of self-esteem, until you understand why you are hurting yourself this way, your problem won't be resolved. You say you have spoken to "a specialist" about your depression. Perhaps it's time for another visit and a chat about what's really bothering you.

DEAR ABBY: Years ago when I was married, I bought a beautiful two-carat solitaire ring as a sign of my accomplishment at work. Now that I'm divorced, I continue to wear the ring on my wedding ring finger.

I love the ring, but my mother and friends say I am chasing away suitors who mistake it for an engagement ring. Do you agree with them? I don't want to wear this on any other finger and have no plans to give it up.

STUBBORN IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STUBBORN: I agree with your mother and your friends that what you're doing sends a wrong message. When a woman wears a diamond on the third finger of her left hand in this culture, it means that she's not available. Nowhere have I ever heard that it signifies that she's successful at work.

However, I am puzzled about one thing: Can you please explain, since you refuse to wear the ring on another finger or give it up, why you are asking me for advice?

DEAR ABBY: My husband talks out loud and carries on conversations with himself. Sometimes when I'm in another room, I hear him talking, and I think he must be on the phone or that someone is here.

One time he was outside and speaking so loudly I thought a neighbor had dropped by, so I asked him which one. He admitted he was only talking to himself.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Is this a brain disorder, and is there a name for it?

CURIOUS IN THE EAST

DEAR CURIOUS: I don't think it's a brain disorder, so quit worrying. When I do this—and I admit that I sometimes do—and my husband mentions it, I tell him I'm talking to the person who understands me the best. (If it was something to worry about, I would probably have been certified long ago.)

P.S. If this bothers you, ask him to speak more softly.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

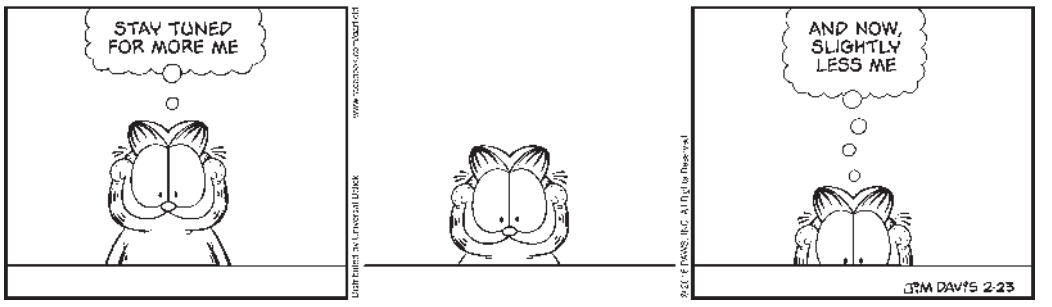
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LEAVE YOUR TIGER IN THE CAR, CALVIN.
CAN'T HOBBES COME ALONG, DAD? HE WON'T EAT ANYBODY!
NO, CALVIN. LETS GO.
WELL, AT LEAST LET ME OPEN THE WINDOW AND GIVE HIM SOME AIR.
SEE IF HE'LL LEAVE THE KEYS, TOO, SO I CAN LISTEN TO THE RADIO.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW DID YOU ACCIDENTALLY POST A VIDEO OF YOURSELF SIPPING COFFEE?
WELL, I'M NOT...GOOD. TECHNOLOGY-WISE.
BUT IT'S FINE. IT'S JUST 33 MINUTES OF ME SLURPING AND SAYING "MMMM" A LOT.
HEY, DAD. YOU'VE GONE VIRAL.
"CHUBBY COFFEE WEIRDO" IS TRENDING ON TWITTER.
I'M A STAR!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

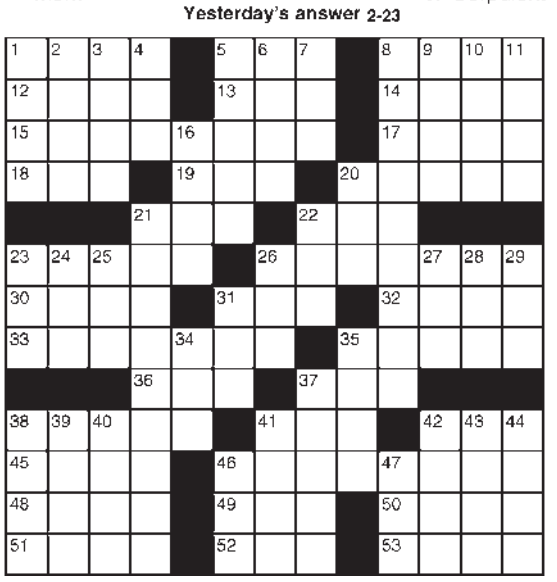
ACROSS
1 Say it isn't so
5 "No seats"
8 Without
12 Oklahoma tribe
13 That girl
14 Guitarist Clapton
15 Talking bird
17 — Hari
18 Greek vowel
19 "A spider!"
20 Nepal's neighbor
21 Wolf Blitzer's channel
22 — de deux
23 Crude dudes
26 Oyster bar order
30 Italian wine region
31 Writer's block?
32 Franc replacement
33 "Old Mother" of rhyme
35 Hunk of cheese
36 CIA operative
37 Inherited
38 Get clean
41 Menagerie
42 Beetle and Rabbit
45 Chills and fever
46 Wedding-day jitters
48 Supreme Court count
49 Sprite
50 "— and Janis" (comic strip)
51 Bitty biter
52 Part of UNLV
53 "There!"

DOWN
1 Nitwit
2 Coup d'—
3 Mrs. Nick Charles
4 Pro vote
5 Radiance
6 Stench
7 Scrap
8 Chocolate variety
9 Basra resident
10 Evening, in an ad
11 Ella's style
16 Burns and Jennings
20 Eastern "way"
21 Cheater's reference
22 Third degree?
23 "Humbug!"
24 Buck-eyes' sch.
25 Wagerers' site (Abbr.)
26 Scoundrel
27 Lemon
28 Work unit
29 Canape topping
31 Snoop
34 Gorilla
35 Fireplace fuel
37 Plays 18 holes
38 Gunshot sound
39 Opposite of "fer"
40 Sushi fish
41 "J'accuse" writer
42 Actress Farmiga
43 Use a blowtorch
44 Ancient portico
46 Cartoon frame
47 Corpulent

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	H	H	■	■	G	A	L	■	P	L	R	E
L	E	A	P	■	U	R	I	■	U	M	P	S
O	A	H	U	■	M	A	N	■	A	M	P	■
B	L	A	S	T	■	B	J	R	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	H	O	G	■	S	C	A	M	P	I
A	N	T	O	N	I	A	■	A	T	O	C	T
T	O	O	N	■	S	L	B	■	A	P	M	S
O	G	E	E	S	■	G	O	S	S	I	P	Y
P	O	S	S	E	S	■	A	P	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	A	K	E	■	A	O	P	T	A
Z	U	L	U	■	U	K	E	■	N	O	O	N
A	S	E	C	■	L	E	N	■	E	R	G	O
P	E	A	K	■	L	S	D	■	■	Y	O	N

Yesterday's answer 2-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dakota Fanning, 22; Kristin Davis, 51; Patricia Richardson, 65; Peter Fonda, 76.

Happy Birthday: Create opportunities instead of waiting for something to come along. Do what you do best and make things work for you. You are a pro when it comes to the art of manipulation, and you can achieve whatever you put your mind to. Share your vision and open your mind to unique possibilities, and you will achieve success. Your numbers are 9, 13, 16, 22, 34, 37, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Expect to face competition. Instead of overreacting, try to do more, complain less and outmaneuver whoever challenges you. Once you establish your position, you will be able to manipulate things in your favor. Don't be afraid to do things differently. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take on new pastimes or join a group that will bring you in touch with interesting people, projects or causes. The experiences you encounter today will prompt you to head in a new direction. Let your actions be your voice. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It's what you do that will make a difference to the way people view you. If you leave a good impression on others, you will prosper. Being detailed and dedicated to reaching your goals should be your priority. Avoid being indulgent. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will draw an audience if you speak up and share your ideas and concerns. The knowledge and experience others share with you will help you make a decision that will affect how you live. Someone will offer something unexpected. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your charm will entertain some and impress others. Changes to existing partnerships will turn out to be to your advantage. You can secure your position, but don't do so by spending money you do not have. Avoid bribery. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emotions will surface, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Deal with matters swiftly and move on. Turn the tables by using the situation to inform others of your plans. The response you receive will confirm your suspicions. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Offering to compromise will help you get what you want in the end. Love is in the stars, and travel will not only be entertaining, but educational. Getting together with friends or pursuing a hobby will lead to new beginnings. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look for the most unlikely path to take and you will outmaneuver anyone who is trying to get in your way. Make a unique change at home that will encourage you to explore a creative dream you want to pursue. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be the captain and get your plans underway. Look for adventure, but stay within your means. Avoiding debt will ease your stress and ensure that whatever you do will be enjoyable. Romance doesn't have to be costly. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be in control, making it easy for you to manipulate situations that will contribute positively to your new endeavors. Contracts, settlements and investments will turn in your favor. Aggressive action will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look for the perfect job or a partnership with someone who will contribute what you need in order for you to accomplish your dream. Your ability to let others do what they do best will lead to your own success. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Play to win. Revel in any challenge that comes your way. Let your intuition and uniqueness help you conquer whatever you set out to do. Evaluate relationships and set new guidelines to ensure that everything runs according to plan. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative and passionate. You are intuitive and intelligent.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5			6			2	
3			2		9	5		4
	8							
	7		6		1		3	
4								6
	9		7		3		5	
							6	
2		7	8		5			9
	4			9			8	

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	9	3	5	4	2	1	8
5	4	1	2	8	7	6	9	3
2	3	8	9	1	6	5	4	7
3	8	7	1	2	9	4	6	5
4	1	5	6	3	8	7	2	9
9	2	6	4	7	5	8	3	1
1	5	3	7	4	2	9	8	6
8	9	4	5	6	3	1	7	2
7	6	2	8	9	1	3	5	4

Difficulty Level ★ 2/23

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

RAILROAD TRACKS Solution: 6 letters

W	R	E	W	O	P	S	R	E	T	L	E	H	S	L
O	N	W	S	H	N	O	I	T	A	V	E	L	E	E
O	Y	O	S	E	E	E	L	B	E	L	L	V	L	V
D	A	A	I	N	H	E	H	A	R	R	A	J	B	E
E	S	L	W	T	O	C	L	L	S	R	E	Y	A	L
N	N	T	I	L	A	I	T	S	G	A	S	B	C	A
P	S	O	N	G	I	T	T	I	D	I	O	S	S	N
O	R	T	T	I	N	A	R	A	W	L	U	M	G	O
R	E	R	E	S	O	M	R	O	T	S	R	R	N	I
T	S	A	C	E	R	P	E	E	P	S	C	O	I	T
A	Ⓣ	Ⓘ	Ⓔ	Ⓢ	L	I	D	N	D	S	E	F	S	I
B	O	N	B	L	A	N	K	E	T	D	N	T	S	D
L	R	S	A	L	E	G	A	U	G	E	A	A	O	A
E	E	D	R	O	E	D	I	S	E	N	I	L	R	R
R	O	W	S	R	L	E	L	L	A	R	A	P	C	T

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Alignment, Bars, Bell, Blanket, Bolted, Cables, Crossings, Elevation, Gauge, Gravel, Jarrah, Ladder, Layers, Level, Lineside, Parallel, Platforms, Points, Portable, Power, Precast, Rails, Railway, Restore, Roll, Rows, Shelters, Slab, Source, Stations, Steel, Stone, Switches, Tamping, Ties, Traditional, Trains, Transportation, Wheels, Wooden

Yesterday's Answer: Lightsaber

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 or 43**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Saipan, MP, 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 989-7428
(671) 969-7427

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE CHANGE OF NAME OF:	)	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0523
	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
Rikki Villagomez, Petitioner	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 4th, 2016, at 10:30am in Courtroom 205A before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 11th of January, 2016.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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General Maintenance Worker:
High School Graduate with one to two years experience.

Front Desk Clerk:
Must have related experience. High School Graduate. Good Customer Service. Good Telephone Etiquette, Fast Learner. Basic skills, Reliable, Team Player, Dedicated.

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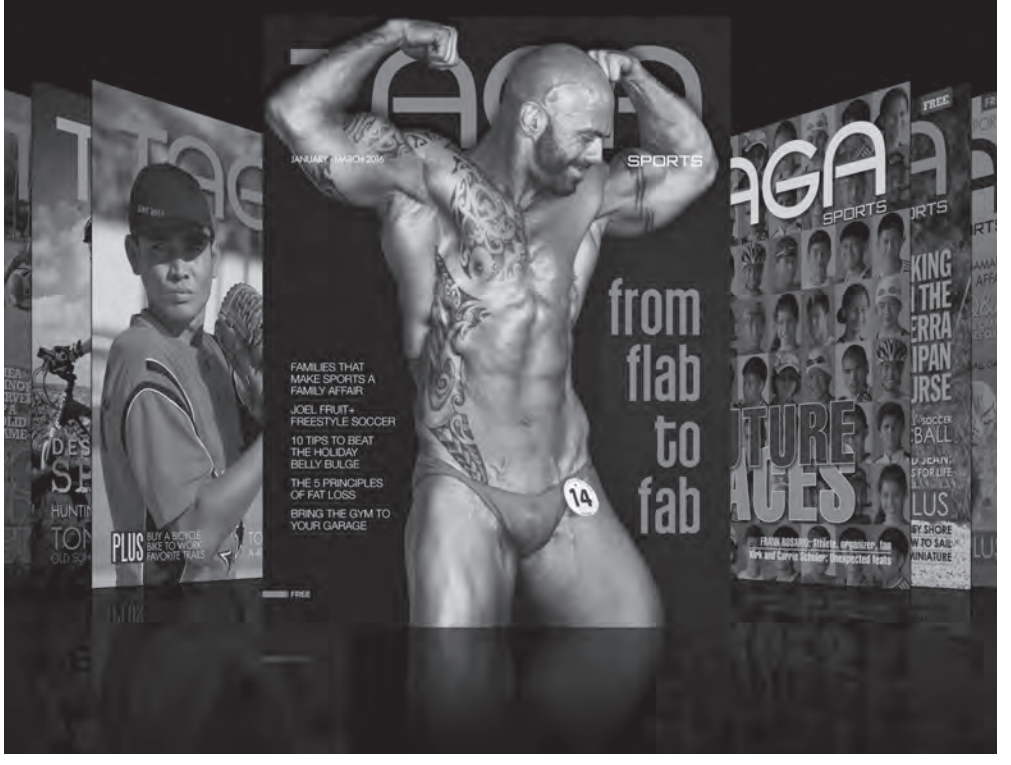
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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

I T
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Find today's solution in classified section

Love scores 29, leads Cavaliers past Thunder

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Love scored 29 points to help the streaking Cavaliers to the road win.

Love shot 9 of 18 from the field and 11 for 12 at the free-throw line to match his second-best scoring performance of the season.

LeBron James had 25 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds for Cleveland, which earned its fifth straight victory. Tristan Thompson had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Kevin Durant scored 26 points and Russell Westbrook had 20 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City, which lost its second straight at home coming out of the All-Star break. It was the Thunder's most lopsided defeat of the season.

Pelicans 111, Pistons 106

In Auburn Hills, Anthony Davis scored a franchise-record 59 points and added 20 rebounds as the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Detroit Pistons 111-106 on Sunday.

The previous club record was 50 points by Jamal Mashburn exactly 13 years earlier against the Grizzlies. Davis went 24 of 34 from the floor and made his only two 3-pointers. He added nine free throws in 10 tries.

Davis also broke the scoring record for the Palace of Auburn Hills, set by LeBron James with 48 points in an Eastern Conference finals game on June 1, 2007. The star center joined Shaquille O'Neal and Chris Webber as the only NBA players with 50 points and 20 rebounds in a game since 1983.

Jrue Holiday added 20 points for the Pelicans. He was the only other player to score in double figures for New Orleans.

Trail Blazers 15, Jazz 111

In Portland, C.J. McCollum scored 31 points, including two clinching free throws with 2.7 seconds left, and Portland earned its fifth consecutive win.

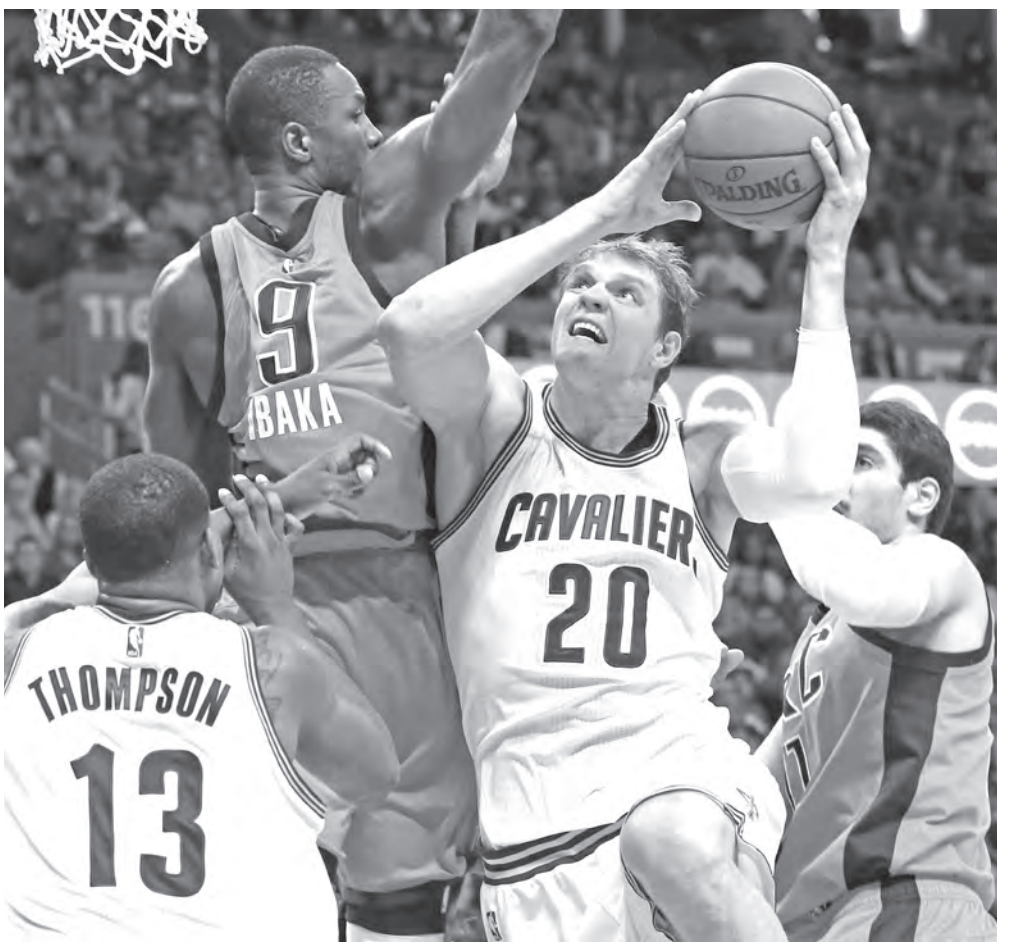
Damian Lillard had 30 points and five assists for Portland, which has won 14 of 17 overall. Reserve Maurice Harkless scored 17 points.

Lillard made a tiebreaking layup with 23.4 seconds left and McCollum hit two foul shots to give Portland a 113-109 lead. After Derrick Favors scored for Utah, McCollum made two more free throws to clinch the win for the Trail Blazers.

Raptors 98, Grizzlies 85

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points, Kyle Lowry added 18 and Toronto beat Memphis for its eighth consecutive home win.

Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 12 rebounds for his 13th double-double of the season. Cory Joseph scored 14 off the bench to help the Raptors rebound from consecutive losses at Minnesota and Chicago.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers center Timofey Mozgov (20) goes to the basket around Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016.

It was the Raptors' first home game since a Jan. 30 victory over Detroit. Toronto hosted the NBA All-Star Game last weekend.

Bulls 126, Lakers 115

In Chicago, Derrick Rose and E'Twaun Moore had 24 points apiece to lead the Bulls to the victory in Kobe Bryant's final game at the United Center.

Pau Gasol had 21 points in Chicago's second straight win. Mike Dunleavy and Bobby Portis each scored 17.

Bryant finished with 22 points on 8-for-20 shooting in 27 minutes. Julius Randle also had 22 points and Jordan Clarkson added 20 as Los Angeles dropped its fifth in a row.

The Bulls played a video tribute to Bryant during the introduction of the Lakers' starters.

Hornets 104, Nets 96

In New York, Kemba Walker scored 28 points, Al Jefferson added 18 in his second game back from right knee surgery, and Charlotte extended its winning streak to a season-high five games.

The Hornets also posted a season-best fourth straight win on the road, a winning streak they will bring to Eastern Conference-leading Cleveland on Wednesday.

Nicolas Batum had 16 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for Charlotte, which improved to 6-1 in February.

Spurs 118, Suns 111

In Phoenix, Patty Mills had 21 points, matching his career high with six 3-pointers, and the Spurs pulled away for the victory.

Tony Parker scored 22 for San Antonio, including a spinning drive that made it a seven-point game with 1:03 to play. LaMarcus Aldridge added 19 points and 10 rebounds.

The Spurs played without ailing All-Star Kawhi Leonard, who was sidelined by tightness in his left calf.

Mavericks 129, Sixers 103

In Dallas, Wesley Matthews scored 21 points, Dirk Nowitzki had 18 and Dallas won for just the second time in its last seven games.

Six Mavericks scored in double figures in Dallas' highest scoring game of the season.

Jahlil Okafor scored a career-high 31 points for Philadelphia, which has lost eight of nine. Okafor's total was not only his highest as a pro, but one more than his high total during his one-and-done national championship season at Duke last year.

Celtics 121, Nuggets 101

In Denver, Isaiah Thomas had 22 points and 12 assists, leading Boston to the road win.

Avery Bradley had 20 points for the Celtics, who beat the Nuggets for a fourth time in a row. Evan Turner scored 17 points, and Jared Sullinger had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Denver had 24 turnovers in its third loss in four games. Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 23 points and 13 rebounds, and fellow rookie Emmanuel Mudiay added 18 points.

Pacers 105, Magic 102

In Orlando, Monta Ellis scored 21 points, Paul George had 20 and Indiana won for the fourth time in five games.

CJ Miles and Ian Mahinmi had 14 points apiece for the Pacers. Jordan Hill added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Evan Fournier led Orlando with 23 points. Nikola Vucevic added 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Victor Oladipo had 17 points, eight assists and seven rebounds.

SIDEBAR

Warriors agree to deal with Varejao

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors agreed Sunday night to a contract with recently released center Anderson Varejao for the rest of the season.

A person with knowledge of the deal confirmed that Varejao will join the Warriors. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the deal. Yahoo Sports first reported the move.

Varejao had spent all 12 seasons of his NBA career with Cleveland before being dealt last week to Portland in a three-team trade that sent Channing Frye from Orlando to the Cavaliers. The Trail Blazers immediately cut the Brazilian, leaving him able to sign with any team.

Despite a 49-5 record, the Warriors had a need for another big body to play center. Starter Andrew Bogut missed Saturday's game with a strained right Achilles and key backup Festus Ezeli is out until at least late March with an injured left knee.

Coach Steve Kerr has few other proven options up front with Marreese Speights being inconsistent all season, James Michael McAdoo out since December with a sprained toe and rookie Kevon Looney having barely played all season.

Golden State reportedly will cut the ineffective Jason Thompson to make room for the 33-year-old Varejao, who saw his playing time dwindle significantly this season as he all but dropped out of the rotation in Cleveland. He played just 31 games, averaging 2.6 points, 2.9 rebounds and 10 minutes.

For his career, Varejao has averaged 7.6 points and 7.5 rebounds. He has also played 71 playoff games but missed last year's postseason for Cleveland because of a torn left Achilles.

Dodgers, Cuban pitcher Sierra finalize $30M deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers and Cuban pitcher Yaisel Sierra have finalized a $30 million, six-year contract.

The 24-year-old right-hander will get a $6 million signing bonus in the deal announced Sunday.

Half of the bonus is payable 15 days after the contract is approved by Major League Baseball and Sierra obtains all permissions needed to enter and work in the U.S. The other half is payable on Dec. 15.

The team said Sierra is expected to report to the team's spring training camp in Glendale, Arizona, in a few days after his visa issues are resolved. The sides agreed to the deal last month.

He will earn $1 million this year, $2.5 million in 2017, $3.5 million in 2018, $4 million in 2019, $5.5 million in 2020 and $7.5 million in 2021.

Sierra pitched five seasons in Cuba's Serie Nacional with Holguin (2010-14) and Sancti Spiritus (2012), going 16-21 with 25 saves and a 4.23 ERA in 131 games. He pitched for the country's gold medal-winning national team in the 2014 Central American and Caribbean Games.

Once Sierra is eligible for salary arbitration, he may void the salaries and file for arbitration.

To make room on the 40-man roster, the Dodgers placed right-hander Frankie Montas on the 60-day disabled list. Montas had rib resection surgery last week and is expected to be out two to four months.

Sierra is among a string of Cuban players the Dodgers have signed, starting with Yasiel Puig, who received a $42 million, seven-year deal in 2012. Puig's stellar rookie season led to the team signing Erisbel Arruebarrena for $25 million, Alex Guerrero for $28 million, and Hector Olivera for $62.5 million. The trio of infielders has yet to match Puig's success.

In recent months, the Dodgers have signed three Cuban pitchers: Yadier Alvarez and prospects Yusniel Diaz and Omar Estevez.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Guthrie, who started Game 7 of the 2014 World Series for the Kansas City Royals, signed a minor league contract with a spring training invitation with the Texas Rangers on Sunday.

Guthrie, who was 8-8 with a 5.95 ERA in 30 games last season, was not placed on the Royals' postseason roster last year. He had a 6.10 ERA in 24 starts, but made only one start after Aug. 18.

Guthrie, who turns 37 on April 8, has a 91-108 record with a 4.37 ERA in 305 major league games with Cleveland, Baltimore, Colorado and Kansas City.

Guthrie will compete for a rotation spot with the Rangers, who used 12 starters last season.

US to play Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay in Copa America

AP

From left, Carlos Valderrama, Alexi Lalas, Mario Kempes and Jorge Campos, join Jurgen Mainka, center, master of ceremonies, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016, at the completion of the official 2016 Copa Centenario Official Draw in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—The United States will play Colombia, Costa Rica and Paraguay in what appears to be a difficult first-round group in the Centennial Copa America.

In the opener of a special 16-nation tournament whose business deals led to indictments against a slew of top soccer executives on corruption charges, the Americans play the Colombians on June 3 at Santa Clara, California. The U.S. meets regional rival Costa Rica four days later at Chicago, then closes Group A play against Paraguay at Philadelphia on June 11.

To U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, the daunting group that emerged from Sunday night's draw at the Manhattan Center reminds him of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where the U.S. opened with a 2-1 win over Ghana, tied Portugal 2-2 and lost to Germany 1-0, good enough to finish second. The Americans were eliminated with a 2-1 extra-time loss to Belgium in the round of 16.

"It's doable. We had a similar kind of scenario in Brazil, and we went through," Klinsmann said. "First or second with that group is both tremendously fine."

Other groups are: B-Brazil, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru; C-Jamaica, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela; and D-Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Panama.

Colombia went 3-0 in its group at the World Cup and was knocked out by Brazil in the quarterfinals. Ranked eighth in the world, Colombia has a player pool that includes stars James Rodriguez and Jackson Martinez.

"We know we start right on our toes with the opening whistle in Santa Clara," Klinsmann said.

In a famous match during the group stage of the 1994 World Cup, the U.S. upset the Colombians 2-1 at the Rose Bowl, a result that led 10 days later to the murder of Andres Escobar, a 27-year-old Colombian defender who had deflected a pass from John Harkes into his net for an own goal.

Two years ago, Colombia beat the U.S. 2-1 in an exhibition in London.

"One of the toughest groups because of the history of all the teams involved," Colombia coach Jose Pekerman said.

Costa Rica is ranked 31st, second in the North and Central America and Caribbean region behind Mexico, which is 22nd. The U.S. is 32nd, and Paraguay is 42nd.

The top two teams in each of four groups advance to the quarterfinals of the tournament, which will be played at 10 U.S. venues from June 3-26. The semifinals are in Houston and Chicago, and the championship is at East Rutherford, New Jersey.

If the U.S. tops its group, it would play the second-place team from Group B at Seattle. If the Americans finish second, they would play the Group B winner at East Rutherford.

"We have to learn how to win knockout games," Klinsmann said. "No better way to start it than a Copa America."

Argentina's Lionel Messi, a five-time world player of the year, already has committed to playing in the tournament. Organizers also hope it will include top stars such as Brazil's Neymar, Uruguay's Luis Suarez and Chile's Alexis Sanchez.

"This will give the game again a huge boost in the United States," Klinsmann said.

The U.S. is coming off a mediocre 2015, when it was eliminated by Jamaica in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. That forced the Americans into a playoff for a berth in the 2017 Confederations Cup, a match they lost to Mexico.

The tournament was planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Copa America, South America's championship, and federal prosecutors alleged a company formed to buy the Centennial Copa America's marketing rights agreed to pay $110 million in bribes to South American soccer officials.

Rams release stars Laurinaitis, Long

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The salary-cap purge for the Los Angeles Rams has begun with the release of veterans James Laurinaitis, Chris Long, and Jared Cook last weekend.

In moves that will reduce the team's salary by nearly $25 million as it relocates from St. Louis, the Rams departed with two mainstays in star linebacker Laurinaitis and defensive end Long. Laurinaitis has been one of the NFL's leading tacklers throughout his seven-year pro career. Long, the son of Hall of Famer Howie Long, has been the Rams' top pass rusher for most of his eight seasons.

"This is the time of year when all NFL teams are faced with difficult decisions regarding their veteran players," Rams coach Jeff Fisher said. "Chris and James are the epitome of what it means to be a pro in this league, and it's been an honor to coach them both. They've been the pillars of our defense for many years, and not enough can be said of their love for the game and for their teammates.

Selected in the second round of the 2009 draft, Laurinaitis, 29, led the Rams in tackles in each of his first four seasons, and made at least 100 tackles in each of his seven seasons in St. Louis. In 2015, he passed Hall of Famer and 14-time Pro Bowler Merlin Olsen to become the leading tackler in franchise history.

Long, 30, was drafted second overall by the Rams in 2008. He started 95 of 114 games and made 54 1-2 sacks. Long led the team in sacks in 2011 and 2012. He also has forced eight fumbles and recovered five.

Cook, 28, joined the Rams as a free agent before the 2013 season and set franchise records for most receiving yards by a tight end both in a single season (671 in 2013) and in a single game (141 on Sept. 8, 2013 vs. Arizona).

Chelsea thrashes Man City to reach FA Cup quarterfinals

LONDON (AP)—Chelsea reached the quarterfinals of the FA Cup with a 5-1 victory against an understrength Manchester City side on Sunday, while London rivals Crystal Palace and West Ham also advanced.

Palace defeated Tottenham 1-0, and West Ham came from behind to thrash second-tier Blackburn 5-1.

At Stamford Bridge, City manager Manuel Pellegrini showed that the focus was on his side's Champions League last 16 first-leg match against Dynamo Kiev on Wednesday— handing five players their debut.

"I have 13 players (fit), I cannot take the risk to have one player more injured" Pellegrini said, when asked if he had devalued the FA Cup by fielding a weakened team. "I think we did the correct thing."

Defeat ended City's chance of an unlikely quadruple, while Chelsea head for a quarterfinal against Everton—team it beat in the 2009 FA Cup final, during Chelsea manager Guus Hiddink's first spell in charge.

When Chelsea took the lead after 35 minutes, it was two of Pellegrini's senior players—rather than the youngsters—who were at fault.

Diego Costa was allowed space on the six-yard box between Aleksandar Kolarov and Martin Demichelis, and when Eden Hazard hooked the ball across goal, Costa had as much time as he liked to stoop and head powerfully past Willy Caballero.

But the lead only lasted two minutes. City forward Kelechi Iheanacho received a pass on the right and spread the ball into Chelsea's six-yard area.

Cesar Azpilicueta tried to clear, but David Faupala stretched out a leg in anticipation and scored a debut goal.

As he celebrated with teammates in the corner of the pitch, coins were thrown at the City players from the stand where Chelsea fans are sat.

"There were coins thrown to the Man City players in their celebration," Hiddink said. "We condemn it, I condemn it strongly. Those people, they should not come into stadiums."

Faupala's goal marked an encouraging first half for City's youngsters but Chelsea's experience proved too much after the break.

Hazard, whose movement and passing resembled the player who propelled Chelsea to the Premier League title last season, threaded in Willian in the 48th and he finished ruthlessly, lashing the ball fiercely past Caballero and into the far corner.

Five minutes later, Chelsea added a third when Fernandinho made a feeble attempt to clear Willian's corner and Gary Cahill fired in from the edge of the area.

Hazard then marked his impressive display with a goal, whipping a free kick low past Caballero in the 67th before substitute Bertrand Traore scored with a header in the 89th.

It could have been a heavier defeat for City, but Caballero saved a 75th minute penalty from Oscar.

"It is a boost in the confidence for the players. We are making steps (forward)," Hiddink said. "There is not much left in the league for Chelsea, to be honest, so we focus on the games in the FA Cup."

Elsewhere, Crystal Palace dumped London rival Tottenham out of the competition.

Martin Kelly hit the decisive goal for Palace at White Hart Lane just before half-time, controlling a pass from Wilfried Zaha before firing past Michel Vorm.

Tottenham came close to equalizing in the second half through Christian Eriksen, who was denied by a smart save from Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey, and Alan Pardew's side held on for a narrow victory.

"It wasn't our day," Tottenham midfielder Dele Alli said. "There are a lot of disappointed lads in the dressing room, but we will move on."

West Ham avoided a fifth-round upset with a 5-1 comeback victory at Blackburn.

Ben Marshall put the hosts ahead with a low, left-footed strike after 20 minutes, but Victor Moses equalized six minutes later.

Dimitri Payet then put West Ham ahead with a free kick and Emmanuel Emenike struck twice in the second half, before Payet got his second in stoppage time.

Chris Taylor was sent off for Blackburn and Cheikhou Kouyate for West Ham, both in the second half.

"After the first 20 mins we played fantastic," West Ham manager Slaven Bilic said. "We played really great football and it looked easy."

Watson rallies for another win at Riviera; McIlroy falls

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bubba Watson ended his big week in L.A. as theH star of his own show Sunday at Riviera.

Two shots behind with four holes to play, Watson made birdie on two of his last two holes to overtake Jason Kokrak and hold off Adam Scott for a one-shot victory in the Northern Trust Open.

Watson, who closed with a 3-under 68, won at Riviera for the second time in three years and moved back to No. 4 in the world.

He was among a half-dozen players who still had a chance over the back nine under warm sunshine. Watson took advantage of some late mistakes by Kokrak, who was going for his first PGA Tour victory, and his two birdies were enough to turn back the late heroics of Scott, who chipped in for birdie on the 18th for a 67.

That group of contenders did not include Rory McIlroy.

In his Riviera debut, McIlroy made eagle on the par-5 first hole to tie for the lead. He didn't make a birdie until the 18th, giving him a 75 to tie for 20th.

Watson, Scott, Kokrak and K.J. Choi were tied for the lead through 11 holes remaining and all of them dropped shots to fall out of the lead.

"For me to come back ... and pull one out in a tough way means a lot," Watson said.

He finished at 15-under 269 for his ninth career victory on the PGA Tour.

Kokrak had the lead to himself when Choi made bogey on No. 12, Scott missed 5-foot par putts on the 14th and 15th holes, and Watson went long of the 13th hole and watched his 20-foot par putt spin out of the cup.

Kokrak was firing at dangerous flags and pulling off the shots, stretching his lead to two shots with a daring approach to 4 feet on the 13th.

But one shot changed the dynamics of the final hour.

From the middle of the 15th fairway, Kokrak went long on one of the more difficult greens at Riviera and badly missed an 8-foot par putt as his lead shrunk to one. Watson stuffed his tee shot into 5 feet for birdie on the 16th, and Kokrak did well not to lose the lead by making a bending, 6-foot putt to save par from a bunker.

"You've got to eliminate the mental mistakes," Kokrak said. "Hitting it in the middle of the green on 15 is just ... I had a two-shot lead at the time."

The decisive moment was on the par-5 17th, where Watson hit his tee shot so hard that both feet came off the ground. He reached the green with an iron and two-putted for birdie from about 40 feet. Kokrak hooked his tee shot into the trees, hit his second into a bunker and had to make a 6-foot par putt, falling one week.

Ahead of them, Scott stayed alive with a 10-foot birdie putt on the 17th to get within one shot, and then the former Masters champion chipped in from 25 feet behind the green on the 18th, the ball slamming into the pin. That momentarily put him in a tie for the lead until Watson made his birdie on the 17th.

Once Watson hit his approach to 15 feet, Scott knew his chances were over.

"A guy like Bubba, he's very tough to beat," Scott said. "He's proving tough to beat from that position. He's wearing the course out on the toughest day."

Kokrak had a putt from about the same distance to tie for the lead, but the ball slid by the left side of the cup and he settled for a 68. Two putts later, Watson was waving to the crowd and headed to another trophy presentation.

What a week for Watson. He took his 3-year-old son to hang out with Justin Bieber. He made a cameo appearance in a "Girl Meets World" episode (they even gave him a line), and he dashed out of Riviera to hang out with his pals at the Los Angeles Clippers-Golden State Warriors game Saturday night.

Best of all was winning another tournament.

Dustin Johnson also was in the mix for much of the day, making too many bogeys to hold him back. He closed with a 69 and finished fourth, two shots behind. Marc Leishman of Australia, one shot behind for much of the back nine, failed to save par from a bunker on the 16th and closed with a 69 to join Choi three shots behind.

AP

Bubba Watson tees off on the second hole in the fourth round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016, in the Pacific Palisades section of Los Angeles.

Saipan Marathon early bird sign-up deadline Feb. 26

Organizers of the 11th Annual Saipan Marathon has set Feb. 26 as the early bird registration deadline for the April 16 event.

Early registration for the 50K and marathon is $55 for US and NMI participants ($90 for international participants) and $45 for half marathon and 10K participants ($60 for international participants). An additional late fee of $10 will apply to registrations submitted after Feb. 26. The last day to register for the event will be on March 18 at 5pm. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

"Promotions for the Saipan Marathon are well underway through our off-shore offices, and we're looking forward to a strong local turnout again this year, as well," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The Saipan Marathon is another great signature event bringing visitors and residents together. Due to the large number of participants, we encourage early registration so we can plan proper and deliver a great event."

The race will start at the American Memorial Park at 4am for the 50K, 5am for the marathon and half marathon, and 5:45am for the 10K. The cut-off time will be 8:30am at the halfway point at the Department of Public Safety substation in Garapan.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on April 15 at 4pm at Paseo de Marianas.

Entry forms are available at the MVA office located across Beach Road in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information, contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or through email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

TAN

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Diaz's shot in the 41st minute of last Saturday's lone game.

Action in Division 1 continued last Sunday with Sun Palace beating Shirley's FC and World Resort topping the Women's National Team in similar scores, 3-1.

The Sun Palace-Shirley's FC tiff was played first with the former getting goals from three different players to notch its first win of the season after debuting with a 0-0 draw against World Resort. Jun Sik Kim nailed the first goal for Sun Palace in the sixth minute, while the last two came from Jin Guang Zhi and Chun Feng Jin, who lit up the board in the 52nd and 58th minute.

Kazuaki Togo tallied the only goal for Shirley's FC, which absorbed its second loss against one win.

In the third Division 2 match last weekend, World Resort also had three different players contributing to the team's cause. Daniel Agulto scored in the first half, while Dhiraj Chhetri and Janta Tamang found the back of the net in the second half. Jeraldine Castillo posted the lone goal for the WNT, which dropped its second straight game after opening the season with a 3-2 victory versus Shirley's FC.

Castillo and company hope to get back on track this Saturday when they take on Kanoa at 4:30pm. Other Divison 2 matches scheduled this weekend (Sunday) are Thundercats vs Sun Palace at 3pm and World Resort vs Shirley's at 4:30pm. In Division 1, the Sunday pairings are as follows: Paire/Inter vs Tan Holdinsg at 12pm and MP United vs KFAS at 1:30pm.

WOO

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ter blanking Kichang Jeoung and Daniel Heo, respectively, while Paik made it to the semis following a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Go Sekiguchi. Woo automatically marched into the Final Four after getting a bye in the opening day.

Woo's twin wins against Paik in Week 1 of the PIC tournament was his third and fourth against Paik in the 2015-2016 season. His string of victories started last November when he won the boys U12 title in the 7th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic. Woo's second title at the expense of Paik came less than two weeks ago when the former swept Paik, 6-3, 6-2, in the boys U14 singles finals of the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

The victory in the PIC event also allowed Woo to bag the division championship that got away from his hands last year. He lost in three sets to Aditya Rai in the same tournament in 2015, 6-7, 6-4, 0-6.

Meanwhile, Robbie Schorr also redeemed himself from an earlier defeat when he ruled the boys U16 singles division of last weekend's competition.

Schorr, who fell to Moris Villanueva in the same age group contest in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic, stunned the top-ranked Michael Ren in the finals, 6-4, 6-1, for his first U16 singles championship. Schorr advanced into the title match after sweeping Vincent Tudela, 6-2, 6-1, in the lower bracket semis, while Ren survived Tony Kim in the upper bracket semis, 7-5, 1-6, 10-2. Kim and Tudela made it to the semifinals after knocking off Steven Goodwin, 6-2, 6-2, and Ken Song, 1-6, 7-6, 10-3, respectively.

OPENER

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after routing Hite Jinro in the finals, 85-70.

Mike Villacrus scored 5 straight points just two minutes into the match and got another field goal for an 11-4 Mobil/JP World advantage, while Elgene Mangali capped the opening canto with back-to-back triples to give their team a double-digit spread, 25-14. Lerio Pagarao also helped out in Mobil/JP World's good start, as he came off the bench and added 6 markers.

Pagarao kept going in the last three periods, as punished San Antonio's defense with his daredevil drives, while the rest of his teammates also contributed to keep Mobil/JP World's safe distance.

Pagarao and three other Mobil/JP World players drilled at least two baskets apiece in the second canto to stretch their lead to 16 at the break, 42-26. San Antonio failed to score in the 20s anew in the second frame, as it logged only 12 makers and was limited to four field goals with only Jack Aranda canning more than one basket in that period.

San Antonio improved its scoring in the third canto, but Mobil/JP World matched the former's 23-point output to retain the 16-point advantage, 65-49, entering the final frame. Pagarao added 8 more points in the third, while Juan Camacho also had 8 markers, and Sid Quan chipped in 4 to foil San Antonio's bid to bring the deficit down to single digit.

Pagarao went on to finish strong, firing 9 of Mobil/JP World's last 13 markers. He ended up with a game-high 29 points, while four of his teammates also had double figures. Villacrusis and Camacho recorded 12 markers apiece and Mangali and Chris Lilles logged 11 and 10, respectively.

Aranda and Erick Dela Rosa paced San Antonio, scoring 12 each. Mike Arciaga and Prince Factor also registered twin digits with 10 apiece, but they could not make baskets in streaks and that had been the story for the defending champion.

Meanwhile, the second game in the opening day was rain-halted at the 4:08 mark of the third quarter with Ghasias Brothers leading Kauila Enterprises, 59-50.

Freddie Pelisamen banners Ghasias Brothers and has already scored 19 points when the match was stopped. Jorge De Guzman led Kauila, making 12 markers, including his team's last basket before organizers decided to call it a night.

Mobil/JP World 85 — Pagarao 29, Villacrusis 12, Camacho 12, Mangali 11, Lilles 10, Borja 5, Quan 4, Cortez 2.

San Antonio 69 — Aranda 12, Dela Rosa 12, Arciaga 10, Factor 10, De Guzman 7, Flores 6, Rabasto 6, Feria 2, Barbo 2, Saturno 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-14, 42-26, 65-49, 85-69.

2016 Rotary McFun Run

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Rotary Club of Saipan vice president Brian Clayton, left, poses with over 50 10K top finishers Chan Wang Jang and Lorie Hutchinson and McDonald's Marissa Obtinalla during last Saturday's awarding ceremony of the 2016 Rotary McFun Run at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Charlie Sendin, center, poses with his first place medal in the 10K 30 to 39 age group.

Fr. James Balajadia, center, smiles after getting the first place medal in the 10K 20 to 29 age group.

Steve Pixley, center, smiles after receiving his first place medal in the 5K over 50 division.

10K top finishers Keith Longuski, second left, and Mamiko Berger, third left, pose for a group photo after getting their medals.

Students Caleb Wang, second left, and Conatsu Kaga, third left, get the first place medal in the 10K U19 division.

Gary Bandoja wears his first place medal after ruling the 5K 40 to 49 age group.

Noriko Jim, second left, and Hao Yu Chen, third left, topped the women's and men's 5K event.

Runners register for the 5K and 10K races.

Love scores 29, leads Cavaliers past Thunder

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US to play Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay in Copa America

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Woo wins another faceoff with Paik

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Min Woo makes a backhand slice during his semis game against Daniel Kang in the 16th PIC Tennis Championships last weekend at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ji Min Woo reasserted his mastery over Seung Jin Paik, winning against his perennial rival twice in the opening week of the 16th PIC Tennis Championships.

Woo defeated Paik both in the boys U12 and U14 singles title matches last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

The eventual champion first dueled Paik in the boys U12 singles finale and cruised to a 6-3, 6-0 victory in their morning match. The two-set triumph was Woo's third consecutive straight set win in the division as he earlier downed Seung Won Lee, 6-0, 6-1, and Daniel Kang, 6-0, 6-2, to set a finals date with Paik. Lee and Kang, before losing to Woo, prevailed over Min Gi Jung, 6-2, 7-5, and Seung Hyun Kim, 6-0, 6-1, at the upper half of the draw.

At the lower half, Paik eliminated Rintaro Miyawaki, 6-1, 6-3, and Richard Steele, 6-4, 6-0, to arrange another title tiff against Woo. Miyawaki advanced against Paik following a 6-0, 6-1 win over Isaac Heo, while Steele, who won the same age group crown in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic early this month, marched into the semis after ousting Anthony Gregoire, 6-4, 6-0. Gregoire challenged Steele in the quarterfinals after slipping past Andrew Chung, 2-6, 6-1, 10-5.

In the boys U14 singles finale, Wook and Paik collided in the afternoon match with the former picking up where he left off to record a 7-6 (9-7), 6-3 win. Again, Woo moved into the finals after beating Kang in the semis, 6-0, 6-0, while Paik took the long route to the title match as he pulled off a 6-4, 4-6, 10-4 super tiebreaker third set victory against Sean Lee.

Kang and Lee earned the right to face the Top 2 seeds in the boys U14 singles af-

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Mobil/JP World takes DL caging opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil/JP World stole the thunder from defending champion San Antonio Patriots in the opening game of the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 5 after coasting to an 85-69 victory last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Mobil/JP World took early control of the opener and leaned on its balance offense to stun San Antonio, which ruled Season 4 of the league

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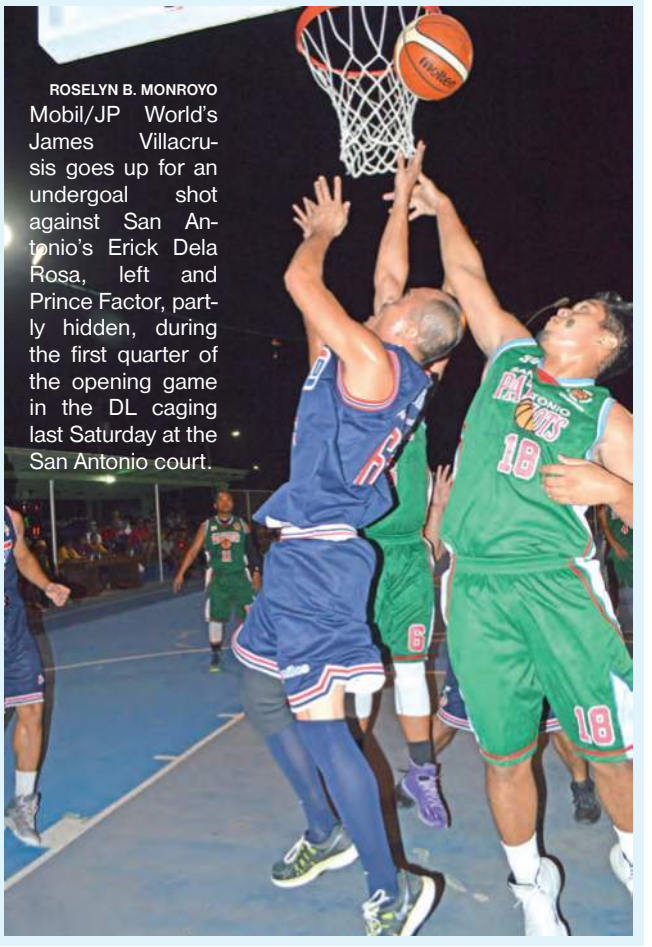

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mobil/JP World's James Villacrusis goes up for an undergoal shot against San Antonio's Erick Dela Rosa, left and Prince Factor, partly hidden, during the first quarter of the opening game in the DL caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Tan Holdings crushes Matansa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings Football Club opened its campaign in the spring season of the 2016 M-League with a bang after hammering Matansa FC, 7-0 , last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Sean Perez and Martin Jambor joined forces in lifting Tan Holdings to the easy win, as the latter drilled four goals, while the former added three. Perez and Jambor knocked in two goals apiece in the first half to set up the lopsided win and they remained on target in the second to give Tan Holdings the temporary lead in Division 1.

Tan Holdings' 1-0-0 win-draw-loss record is the same mark Korean Football Association on Saipan and MP United have, but the former is ahead in the team standings in the five-squad field with its seven goals. MP United and KFAS tallied one and five goals in their first games, respectively. Paire FC/Inter Godfather's (1-0-1) complete the field.

Meanwhile, the Thundercats kept the lead in Division 2, while Sun Palace and World Resort barged into the win column.

The Thundecats improved to a 2-1-0 record after a 1-1 draw against Kanoa FC (0-1-1). Peter Oh hit the equalizer in the 43rd minute to foil Kanoa's upset bid. Kanoa scored the first goal in the match, courtesy of Keeanu

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings Football Club's Joshua De Leon, left, and Jersh Angeles plays defense on Matansa's Tej Gurung during the first half of their Division 1 game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.